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FBIS-LAT-91-103 *29 May 1991*

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Latin American PECC Members Promise Free Trade

BK2305103991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Singapore, May 21 (AFP)—Mexico, which is seeking to join the U.S.-Canada free trade area, moved Tuesday to reassure prospective Asian trading partners that it would never be part of any closed bloc.

Foreign Minister Fernando Solana told the Pacific Economic Cooperaton Conference (PECC) that Mexico, once a focal point for world trade, could again "become a point of covergence between East and West, between North and South."

He told the Pacific group, which Mexico formally joined Sunday, that the American free trade area was logical since his oil-rich country and Canada had about 70 per cent of their trade with the United States.

"To the extent that it remains a reasonably open area we shall be creating one of the most important forces in the world economy by the end of the century, the benefits of which will be especially felt by Pacfic Basin countries," Mr. Solana said.

The minister, speaking on the second day of PECC's eighth general meeting, said that despite the rise of regional economic groupings, "Mexico reaffirms its decision not to become part of any closed bloc."

"On the contrary, we intend to increase, diversify and strengthen our economic exchanges," said Mr. Solana, whose country hopes to start negotiations with Canada and the United States next month.

He said Mexico was determined to strengthen economic and political ties with Pacific Basin countries and hoped to follow up admission into PECC with member [as received] in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Peru, Chile, and Hong Kong were also admitted Sunday to PECC, bringing to 19 the number of members of the non-governmental body set up in 1980 to promote trade and economic cooperation in the Pacific region.

Chile's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Edmundo Vargas told the conference that in the last few years his country had benefited from a clear-cut orientation towards international trade.

"Chile, as other Pacific Basin countries, will keep its economy open to the world," Mr. Vargas said, adding that his government would not seek privileges or preferential treatment.

"We are convinced that an open and competitive market is the most efficent way to achieve a stable growth of the world economy," Mr. Vargas said.

Victor Joy Way, Peru's minister for industry, trade, tourism and integration, said his country was going through "a severe domestic crisis" but was reshaping its social and economic structure.

"We are working for the future, and diverse organisations and countries around the world have understood so. With their support, we are moving more quickly to reinsert Peru into the international financial system, one of our main declared objectives," Mr. Way said.

He added his country had considerable mining, fishery, and forestry resources waiting to be developed and was the gateway to the Andean market of 200 million people as well as all of South America.

Joseph Wong, chairman of the Hong Kong Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation, said the colony had become the 11th largest trading entity in the world and an important financial and services centre. Its economic links within the region were steadily increasing.

"PECC is the pioneer in regional economic cooperation and Hong Kong's new membership status will encourage it to participate even more fully in its activities," Mr. Wong said.

The three-day meeting ends Wednesday.

Report on Group of Rio Talks in Luxembourg

WA1005155791

For reportage on the attendance of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Armando Duran and representatives Julio Cesar Gil, Luis Herrera Marcano, and Aura Cecilia Rengifo at the Rio Group-EC meeting in Luxembourg, including reports on their talks concerning cooperation in science, technology, and finance, please see the International Affairs section of the 10 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Cuba

UN Asked To Review Impact of U.S. Actions

FL2905133691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Cuba will submit today a draft resolution to the UN Economic and Social Council, Ecosoc, asking the UN's Comission on Human Rights to consider the impact of the embargo and other aggressive and discriminatory U.S. Government actions against Cuba. The draft requests that Ecosoc analyze the case at its next session. It also asks that during the next session, the UN secretary general present a report on how the full enjoyment of Cubans' human rights has been affected. The text of the draft advocates the right of every nation for self-determination of its political, economic, and social system, free of any foreign intervention.

Police Dismantle Organized Crime Group

FL2405203991 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1957 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] As a result of the Cascabel Operation, the National Revolutionary Police were able to dismantle and arrest the heads of an organized group in Holguin which practiced illegal gambling. The high income those corrupt citizens received by exploiting the people allowed the antisocial individuals to acquire houses in several municipalities, automobiles, goods that are only purchased with foreign currency, and over 8 kg of cocaine.

The prosecution filed provisional charges against 27 defendants who were brought before the tribunal. The charges included illegal gambling, drug and foreign currency trafficking, and others.

As additional sanctions, Prosecutor Eugenio Martinez requested that the seized goods be confiscated and asked for prison sentences between two and 18 years.

Platt Amendment Anniversary Noted

FL2905145291 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Good friends, I would like to remind you that on a day like today, but in 1934, the Platt Amendment was repealed. The Platt Amendment was a heavy political, economic, and social millstone with which the United States stigmatized the Republic of Cuba which was born on 20 May 1902.

Remember the North American negotiators insisted that if this amendment was not imposed, that is to say, was not incorporated into the Cuban Constitution, the new republic would not come into being. And remember as well that valiant Mambi patriots totally refused to accept this dangerous and hateful dictat that, among other things, imposed upon Cuba the obligation to provide rights for military bases to the United States. This is precisely one of the reasons why the Guantanamo Naval Base is where it is today.

In 1934 the United States, firmly in control of the economy and of the Cuban Government, abrogated this amendment. But remember, good friends, that even without any formal written document this heavy obligation which Cuba had to carry upon its shoulders continued until 1959, when the just sweep of the revolution wiped out every nexus, that is every facet of dependence upon the United States.

So, it is an important day in the Cuban historical calendar, specifically so that all Cubans remember what the so-called alliance, the protection of the United States over our country, really meant.

Castro Attends Genetic Engineering Anniversary

FL2905015091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2326 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro asserted today that much has been done in 10 years but there is much more yet to do, when he visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the production of interferon in our country. The head of the revolution also congratulated this selfless group of workers on the work they have done in these 10 years. The day of commemoration began with the presentation of several papers concerning the production of interferon, the areas where it is applied, and other aspects of great interest. In addition, a visual exhibit depicting significant moments in the work of these scientists was also opened.

At the closing ceremony, after a description of the center's major achievements by Director Comrade Manuel Limonta, Cuban Academy of Sciences President Rosa Elena Simeon gave the closing speech. In her remarks Simeon, who is also an alternate Politburo member, said the following.

[Begin Simeon recording] It is possible to confirm, 10 years after that event, the impressive progress made by our country in the promising field of biotechnology, aiming at the highest level in international terms. Given this confirmation, we must reflect on the path traveled by our country in only three decades of building the revolution. [end recording]

New Daily Bread Allotment Announced

FL2805131891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] As part of the control measures for distribution of basic food items to the population, and consistent with proposals made during the latest analysis meetings, it has become necessary to establish a new quota for bread of 80 grams per customer per day. This measure is in effect in all other provinces of the country, and after June 1, will be

implemented in Havana City, to ensure more reliable and equitable means of acquiring this product.

According to a public information bulletin published in GRAMMA, to purchase bread, it is necessary to show the ration booklet at the counters of bakeries and groceries, according to the characteristics of each neighborhood and municipality. The bakeries will be open for business from 0600 to 2000, Monday through Saturday, and until 1400 on Sunday. Consumers working in commerce network stores will purchase their bread according to the same schedule.

FMLN Disabled Veterans Want To Return Home

PA2805223291 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 91

[Interview with Jose Vicente Diaz, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, war veteran, by correspondent Pedro Martinez in Havana—date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Good evening radio listeners. A few days ago we broadcast an interview with Jose Arnulfo Grande Menjivar, board member for the return to El Salvador of former FMLN fighters—now disabled war veterans—who are here in Cuba. Today another member of the board, Jose Vicente Diaz, is visiting the station.

Diaz, regarding this initiative that has been organized for your return to El Salvador, Grande Menjivar told us you have the UNHCR's [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] support, and that you have made contact with the Red Cross and the Salvadoran church. Menjivar claims that there are approximately 300 disabled war veterans, and of these, 10 percent are women. There are many who are ready to travel to El Salvador and therefore they have sent a letter to President Cristiani. Have you received a reply to your request from the Salvadoran president?

[Diaz] Up until now we have not received a reply, we have been waiting, but have received nothing yet. In this regard it is important...[changes thought] we hope that the previous interview has explained the situation so that all the people, all nations that support the [word indistinct] underway in our country, can also start undertaking efforts for our return, which is our legitimate right. We came to Cuba not to reside here, but to receive medical attention, and now that this has been accomplished we want to go home. This is why we have this idea, and this is why we are now demanding that President Cristiani give us his reply as soon as possible. We want to be with our relatives, our sons, our parents, our brothers; all of our relatives are in EL Salvador and we want to be with them.

[Martinez] Have some former FMLN fighters returned from other nations?

[Diaz] Yes, some have returned, for example, from Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. In light of that process we are demanding the right to return to our nation.

[Martinez] Thank you Jose Vicente Diaz, board member for the return of the FMLN disabled war veterans who are here in Cuba in a camp named 26 July on the outskirts of Havana. There are 300 members who are trying to return to their nation. These efforts have the support of the UNHCR, and of some Salvadoran organizations such as the Catholic Church and the Red Cross.

China Signs Agreement on Electric Motor Factory

FL2905013191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2309 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The construction of the first factory to make electric motors in our country is part of an agreement between Cuba and China resulting from the bilateral talks held in Holguin in recent days. With the signing of the schedule for supplying the technical documentation, the two nations have taken the first steps for establishing this factory in the area of Cacocum Municipality in Holguin Province, where the foundation is already being laid. It is proposed that the factory will produce 30,000 electric motors per year.

Rodriguez Addresses Sociology Congress

FL2805201591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] We have a clip from the reporter covering the 18th Congress of the Latin American Association of Sociology at the convention center.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Ricardo Muro] The 18th Congress of the Latin American Association of Sociology will discuss the realities of the continent from a wide and multidisciplinary perspective. The sessions started this morning at the convention center and will run through Friday. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, during his opening speech made an in-depth analysis of the current Cuban and Latin American situation and of the consequences for the region of the dismantling of socialism resulting in a unipolar world where the United States appears to be the only superpower.

[Rodriguez] Analyzing the problem—the challenge of Latin America and the Caribbean in view of a changing world—allows us to see the Latin American and Caribbean reality from the perspective of a changing world axis. The subject also shows the universality of contemporary paths, the challenges facing our countries are the same that face all of South America. I had the honor of participating in a commission headed by Junior Genere which thoroughly examined this issue. It has nevertheless, its own profile and particular characteristics.

[Muro] Founded in 1950, the Latin American Association of Sociology is one of the largest organizations of social scientists in the region. Over 800 sociologists, political scientists, economists, demographers, teachers, psychologists, and other scholars are in attendance at the congress. They represent all political, theoretical, and methodological trends of social thought in Latin America. State officials, member of the Communist Party of Cuba, and organizers of the Congress were in attendance at the opening session. [end recording]

PRC Leader Holds Talks With Juan Escalona

FL2405011591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Chen Muhua, vice chairwoman of the Chinese Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, held today official talks with Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the Cuban parliament. A broad exchange of views was made on the work of the respective government organizations. The Chinese leader arrived in our country yesterday afternoon accompanied by a large delegation invited by the National Assembly of the People's Government. She will remain in our country until 25 May.

Early in the morning, the Chinese delegation placed a floral wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument located in the Revolution Square. At noon, Chen Muhua, who is also the top leader of the Chinese women's organization, visited Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women. They held a lively dialogue on the work of the respective organizations. During her first visit to Cuba, Chen Muhua learned about the tasks the Cuban women have before them.

Meets With Carlos Rafael Rodriguez

FL2505012991 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received today Chen Muhua, vice chairwoman of the Chinese Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and the members of the parliamentary delegation she is heading.

Matters regarding international current events and bilateral relations were extensively discussed. The Chinese leader explained her country's economic situation since 1989. The Cuban vice president referred to the strategy formulated by the Cuban Government and party in dealing with the situation that arose after economic relations with East European countries were interrupted and the difficulties the Soviet Union is experiencing.

The two leaders confirmed their determination to strengthen bilateral ties.

Broadening of Relations With Mexico Cited

FL2405005291 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] International news agencies have reported that, beginning today, Mexico and Cuba will study the possible broadening of relations in the areas of economy and industry through a cooperation group headed by ministers and officials from the two countries. Communications, transportation, housing, nuclear energy, oil surveys, and banking matters will be included among the subjects that the joint Cuban-Mexican economic-industrial group will discuss. The talks will end on 25 May and it is possible that documents that would make official a broadening of the ties in those and other areas will be signed.

Morelos Satellite Offered

FL2505144191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Mexico will give Cuba facilities for the temporary use of the Morelos satellite, and at a future time the possible use of this solidarity by our country will be negotiated. According to an official Mexican source, the agreement is part of the results of the seventh meeting of a Mexican-Cuban intergovernmental working group for economic and industrial cooperation, which completed its work in Mexico City on 23 May. Cuban officials have revealed the possibility that Mexican businessmen will participate in projects jointly with Cuban economic and industrial organizations.

Soviet Children, Science Academy Members Arrive

FL2105132391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] A high level delegation from the USSR Academy of Sciences and children from cities affected by the Chernobyl disaster arrived in Cuba a few hours ago. [Words indistinct] Health Ministry [Minsap] and Cuba's Science Academy officials were present to give a fraternal welcome to the children and the delegation of Soviet scientists.

This group is composed of 300 children mainly from the Ukraine. From last year to date, more than 4,600 children and over 800 adults have traveled to Cuba to receive specialized medical treatment. [Words indistinct] received by members of Minsap's directorate and members of the Cuban Academy of Science will exchange experiences with members from the two organizations and nuclear energy specialists in relation to medical treatment for children affected by the Chernobyl accident.

Chernobyl Accident Analyzed

FL2505120491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Cuban scientists who are caring for children from Chernobyl have presented in Vienna their conclusions

about the consequences for the children affected by the accident at a nuclear power plant in Chernobyl. The report presented by Cuba generally coincided with the views of a prestigious international team of experts who had studied the impact of the accident on the health of thousands of Soviets. This report was presented during a recent session of the conference that is being held at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Commission in the Austrian capital. During more than a year, Cuban scientists visited areas affected by the catastrophe to select the children in order to examine them and offer them integrated medical treatment.

Protocol Signed With Brazilian Universities

FL2405212091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1953 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] At the University of Havana amphitheater, rectors of the universities of Cuba and Brazil have signed the cooperation protocol between those education centers with Higher Education Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret in attendance.

Miguel Torres, first vice minister of higher education, said at the end of the event that the integration process and the scientific exchange will help even more the development of the two countries. For his part, (Eduardo Pereira) president of the Universities Council of Brazil, asserted that the signed Magna Charta contributes to unite wills, views, and opinions, and to strengthen the academic centers scientifically.

The cooperation protocol provides for the development of technical education, the improvement of the scientific-technical area, the promotion of graduate studies, and the exchange of academic documents.

Caribbean Studies Association Holds Congress

FL2405014791 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 May 91

[Report by Carlos Iglesias]

[Text] Intense debates characterized today the second day of the Caribbean Studies Association 16th Congress. The main assessment focused on the relations of Cuba and Latin America in the nineties. According to Cuban scholars, the changes in the world have led to the reincorporation of the island in Latin America. Several speakers recalled that the isolation Cuba has endured in the region disappeared in the last decade.

Chilean Professor Boris Yopo defined this new reality as one of the greatest successes of the Cuban foreign policy, although he warned that there are still obstacles which are mainly posed by the degree of attention Latin American governments pay to the course of the differences Washington has with Havana.

Certain disagreements were expressed by the speakers regarding Cuba's role in Latin America. Luis Suarez, one of the main organizers of this scientific congress, considered that in spite of certain changes which have taken place during these years the region needs Cuba's presence in dealing with the United States.

[Begin Suarez recording] The various options or the responses and options given by Cuba in the face of the changes that have taken place, mainly in European socialism, and the challenges they represent for Cuba's international economic and political relations are necessarily leading to the analysis of Cuba's relations with the Third World, with the underdeveloped world. We assert that it is precisely in the Cuban relations with Latin America where the Cuban ties achieved a greater level of consolidation and expansion. [end recording]

Matters regarding culture, identity, and the need for Caribbean unity were also discussed. The panel that discussed peace and security issues was interesting. That group said regional stability is affected by the traditional Caribbean political-economic dependency on the United States.

Conference Ends

FL2505113591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2305 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] The 16th annual conference of the Caribbean Studies Association concluded a short time ago with a lecture about Jose Marti on the 100th anniversary of the essay "Our America", given by House of the Americas President Roberto Fernandez Retamar. The conference, which was attended by more than 300 scholars from Latin America, the United States, and the Caribbean, discussed topics concerning Caribbean politics, culture, and identity under the heading of "Cuba and the Antilles in the Nineties." Minutes earlier, Arizona State Governor Bruce Davis [as heard] and his wife, of the International Studies Academy in the United States presented to the plenary session the paper "Cuban Affairs in U.S. Policy", which gave rise to many polemic comments from those present.

Salinas Explains Benefits, Goals of Free Trade

PA2805184291 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Mexican president spoke with various sectors yesterday to explain how the negotiations, which will begin in June, will be conducted. He told political and productive sectors that the trilateral free trade agreement will strengthen the economy while fully respecting the country's laws and sovereignty.

In the negotiations with the United States and Canada, Mexico will act as one front, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari asserted at separate meetings at the Los Pinos official residence with representatives from the legislative and judicial branches, the legal and extended cabinets, the 31 governors of the republic, Labor Congress leaders, and members of the Business Coordinating Council.

The president said that this is an opportunity to strengthen unity and take steps forward. He explained that the treaty will deal exclusively with the rules governing trade and services, and will not in any way include aspects of the sovereignty of the three countries, which are seeking a common market like the one in Europe. It will be a negotiation between sovereign nations, he stressed, and the free trade agreement will be adjusted to the Constitution and not vice versa. To this effect, our country's main goals will be:

1. To ensure access of Mexican products to other markets through inter-relations to create the largest economic region in the world.

2. To attract more investments to Mexico, thereby creating more jobs.

3. The treaty will increase our economy's ability to compete with other commercial blocs.

4. The treaty will give Mexico access to better technology. Nevertheless, scientific and technological research will still be fostered.

5. The treaty is an element through which to settle the differences that normally emerge in commercial exchanges.

Upon broaching the oil issue, one of the most controversial, the president spoke clearly. He said that oil services will be negotiated, but not oil itself, which, as the Constitution clearly establishes, is national property.

Following a discussion of current issues, particularly the agreement, the president said that the negotiation's only goal is to strengthen the country's sovereignty and improve justice and the Mexicans' well-being. Thus, he said, we must not slacken our pace; we must continue to strengthen the achievements we have accomplished over the past few years.

U.S.-Flagged Boat Detained for Fishing

PA2805165991 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] A pirate boat registered in Texas was seized while fishing illegally off the coast of Tamaulipas State. A large load of shrimp was in the Rafaelito's hold at the time of its detention.

Carlos Enrique Perez Beltran, commander of the 1st Naval Headquarters in Tampico, said that the Mexican Navy had captured the U.S.-flagged shrimp boat. He said that the Rafaelito was discovered by the Maya, a logistics ship from the Gulf and Caribbean Sea Naval Force's 1st Fleet, while its crew was involved in commercial fishing 1.5 nautical miles to the southeast of the border between Mexico and the United States. Commander Perez Beltran said that the boat and its three crew members—two Americans and one Mexican—were taken to Puerto de Tampico and placed in the custody of port and fishing authorities who will set a fine which, according to estimates, will surpass 70 million pesos.

* Differences Flare at PAN Meetings in Leon

* Appeal by Alvarez

91CA0124A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Apr 91 pp 4-A, 12-A

[Article by correspondent Juan Ochoa Vidal]

[Text] Leon, Guanajuato, 20 Apr—Let us prevent the National Action Party (PAN) from becoming infected by the crisis of the other parties, remarked Luis H. Alvarez, predicting that the system is heading towards its end and that PRI [Revolutionary Institutional Party] is becoming "ungovernable" while the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] is showing a "regrettable inability to consolidate itself" and is faced with the danger of being made up solely "of former PRI members nostalgic about their old caudillo and marginally legal practices."

Speaking at the opening session of the 14th regular assembly and the 39th national party convention, the PAN president asked the party to reject turning into "a savage horde or troop" and indicated that "without a united opposition there can be no citizen involvement or real change." He also called on his fellow party members to avoid internal conflicts "that are seen and interpreted on the outside as internal rifts or feuds and are used to weaken the party in the public's eyes, to the enjoyment and benefit of our adversaries."

"In contrast to the parties that are losing strength or cannot consolidate," he warned, "let us not make our natural internal differences anything other than the prelude to our own unity."

Speaking before slightly more than 400 regular delegates in the Fair Auditorium and all of the major PAN officials in attendance, Alvarez stated:

"We will come to power. We will bring about the change that Mexico needs if every day we score more victories by a majority, until we achieve a majority in Congress itself, not by always having a minority of multimember-district legislators in the chambers. We cannot aspire to a permanent minority. That would be resigning ourselves to perpetual defeat."

The convention delegates were meeting for two purposes: to approve a National Council ruling expelling Guerrero PAN leader Alfonso Damian Huato, the head of a two-week old dissident group, and to approve the slates of candidates for multimember-district deputy.

The Chihuahua politician amplified on the crisis besetting political parties:

"We are witnessing the accelerated erosion of the ruling party. We are witnesses to its decline. We are seeing that like every decline, that of PRI is becoming unmanageable.

"At the same time," he noted, "we see that the so-called left is regrettably unable to consolidate a modern, democratic political party and that some of its finest cadres are leaving the best known group on that end of the Mexican political spectrum."

He indicated, however, that "none of these developments is to be rejoiced over, because what the country urgently needs, during the transition that it is experiencing, is a vigorous system of political parties that is a reflection and an expression of a strong, pluralist society."

He added:

"But the facts are real, visible, and verifiable. And together they create at least two possibilities. The first is that PAN will become infected by the crisis of the other parties, and the country will be left without political institutions that can persuade and guide the people so that they can be the source of their own liberation. The second is that PAN will be able to be a solid, united, visionary, exemplary party that can convince, mobilize....

"The election presents us with this choice," Luis H. Alvarez noted, "and I do not think that it is hard to make."

Today, he commented, PAN governs one state, three capitals, and among others, 11 of the country's most important cities, including Leon.

He evoked Manuel Gomez Morin, the founder of PAN, in repeating his appeal to overcome "differences of opinion through the harmony of wills."

He said:

"There can be differences of opinions on many matters," he said, "but the irrefutable fact is the pain of the Mexican people. And this pain will not be cured as long as petty interests, silly pride, and egotistical designs preclude institutions devoted to struggling for the eradication of economic poverty and political oppression.

"The factious regime that has imposed its whims on Mexicans," Alvarez prophesied, "is heading towards its end. In today's world, and given the problems that it itself has created, it cannot no longer govern itself, much less govern the country. Because the civic and political awareness of Mexican has grown, it can no longer deny the people's legitimate grievances.

"However, its opening, its evolution, its transformation will be as slow as we Mexicans in general and we PAN members in particular are in giving ourselves political parties that can force us to step up the pace."

* Conchello Candidacy Dispute

91CA0124B Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 21 Apr 91 p 10

[Article by correspondent Oscar Camacho]

[Text] Guanajuato, Guanajuato, 20 Apr—"The celebration of PAN [National Action Party] democracy," as PAN's national assembly and convention were dubbed here, has become a forum in which the white-and-blue party's internal feuds have reemerged and in which most delegates, who identify with the faction that Luis H. Alvarez heads, "have passed the check" to the FDD [Democratic Doctrine Forum] dissidence by rejecting the candidacy of Jose Angel Conchello to head the first multimember slate of candidates for deputy in the upcoming elections.

Amid a heated debate during which the PAN dissidents criticized the "manipulation" of the convention to assure positions for one faction of the party and to weaken those who have challenged the national leadership, the second of five lists of candidates in multimember districts was approved. The slates are headed by Alfredo Ling Altamirano, Gilberto Zapata, Juan de Dios Castro, Jorge Zermeno, and Raymundo Gomez.

The three remaining lists were left pending for discussion this Sunday, when the full session will also debate the first list once again after the appropriate nominating committee has made the changes demanded by the delegates. The list includes intellectuals Francisco Paoli Bolio and Fauzi Hadman; the delegates are asking for a clarification of the reasons why they were included as PAN candidates without belonging to the party. Deputy Juan Miguel Alcantara Soria's response was that it was being done as a way of opening up avenues of political involvement for civilian society through PAN.

The 14th regular national assembly was held prior to the national convention. It confirmed the National Council elected on 16 February, with just three members excluded; their nomination had been marked by irregularities.

Although the assembly began and unfolded amid calm, the latent animosity between the two groups became

evident when during the convention a vote was taken on the first multimember-district slate, headed by Jose Angel Conchello, who after enduring a hail of whistles, insults, and opposition to his nomination from most of the delegates, asserted that "what is being expressed here is just part of what PAN is and is not representative of the pluralism that exists."

He directly accused Vicente Fox Quezada, a candidate for governor of Guanajuato, of "manipulating" the convention by seeing to it that almost a third of the delegates in attendance were from Guanajuato and were supported by the Puebla "frail stas," whose delegation included the leader of DHIAC [Comprehensive Human Development and Citizen Action], Jose Luis Luege, one of the staunchest opponents of Conchello's candidacy.

In turn, PAN's national leader, Luis H. Alvarez, downplayed the manifestations of dissatisfaction and the differences of opinion expressed by the PAN dissidents and said that "the majority has already clearly expressed its position."

He also downplayed the importance of a sit-in outside the auditorium by a group of activists from Puebla and Tlaxcala who were led by Deputies Juan Jose Medrano, Rosalia Ramirez, and Jesus Bravo Cid, who upon the arrival of Luis H. Alvarez asked him to settle PAN's internal conflict in that state. Without turning to look at them, Alvarez kept on walking and later said: "The PAN that exists is the one that is attending this convention. This is the one that is of concern to me."

It took the more than 3,000 delegates barely an hour and a half to address the only item on the national assembly's agenda. The confirmation of the National Council elected last February, with just three of its 200 members excluded, led to premature euphoria among the PAN leadership, as no debate arose and there was no challenge to the ruling of the ad hoc committee charged with reviewing the challenges filed during the 13th assembly.

"We have given an example of unity" and "the lie to all those who predicted a split at the assembly" and who "wanted to see the party weakened," said top-echelon PAN officials like Luis H. Alvarez, Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, and Carlos Castillo Peraza, among others.

The ruling that confirmed the makeup of the National Council was passed unanimously by the ad hoc committee; it excluded Silvano Urzua Ochoa from Jalisco and Leopoldo Gutierrez and Enrique Franco from Aguascalientes because in all three cases it found irregularities in the state procedures through which they were nominated for the National Council.

Nonetheless, the committee's vote was unanimous only on the overall issue, because on specifics FDD forum member Jose Gonzalez Torres, a member of the committee, challenged the analysis of the Puebla case and cast an individual nay vote, deeming that the councilmen nominated by that state were approved by an illegitimate leadership that the National Executive Committee has been bent on supporting.

After the assembly had completed its work, the national convention opened; it had been called to review the PAN bylaws reform and the slates of candidates for multimember-district deputy seats in the next legislature.

As to the reform of the bylaws the convention decided to extend the deadline for submitting proposals until the last day of May and immediately proceeded to present and debate the first of the five multimember-district slates.

Headed by Jose Angel Conchello, the list also included Diego Fernandez in the second spot and university professor and political scientist Francisco Jose Paoli Bolio in the third position.

The debate began with challenges to both Paoli Bolio and Fauzi Hadman, who were faulted for having been nominated by the party without belonging to it.

The discussion became most heated, however, when the candidacy of Jose Angel Conchello was challenged. Confusion reigned in the assembly at times. The chairman of the session, Gabriel Jimenez Remus, was accused of not enforcing the bylaws so that the vote would be by delegation, instead of the general vote that was actually taken, leading to the rejection of the slate so that the committee could draw it up again from among the candidates proposed by the delegates who spoke for or against them.

Before the ruling was rejected, there was a feeling that it could be passed when Castillo Peraza walked up to the rostrum and in a conciliatory address called on the delegates to vote yes. But Bernardo Batiz, the last speaker, roused opposition to Conchello when he indicated that his candidacy was neither a whim nor an incidental issue. There was no further debate, and the general vote turned down the slate for the first multimember district, a slate that had arisen from a "compromise" between PAN factions.

Later on, and not without another heated debate, during which the dissident delegates made use of the microphone and criticized certain actions and the failure to obey the bylaws and the PAN national leadership, the second slate was approved; the debate was presided over by Fernandez de Cevallos.

* Challenge From Conchello

91CA0124C Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Apr 91 pp 4-A, 27-A, 32-A

[Article by correspondent Juan Ochoa Vidal]

[Text] Leon, Guanajuato, 20 Apr—Jose Angel Conchello headed the list of candidates for multimember-district deputy in the first district, but his nomination collapsed amid shouts and jeers. Pablo Emilio Madero was also booed.

Conchello challenged the legality of the PAN [National Action Party] National Convention, saying that half of the delegates were from Guanajuato, attributing what happened to a scheme against him, and denouncing infiltration by the extreme right into National Action.

It was the first day of the 34th [as published] National Convention of PAN. On the speakers platform Luis H. Alvarez, the party's president, was listening, one after the other, to the objections voiced against the Mexico City leader of PAN.

"Let him resign his post first if he wants to be a deputy!" cried many of the more than 400 regular delegates to the convention.

How did Conchello wind up in the dock? Why did federal Deputy Luisa Maria Calderon blame him for weakening PAN in Mexico City to the point that membership there "is less than 6,000"?

"You cannot whistle and eat pinole at the same time," said federal Deputy Jaime Avina, a member of DHIAC [Comprehensive Human Development and Citizen Action].

The PAN National Committee had submitted for the convention's consideration the nominees for the multimember-district slates, with Conchello heading up the first district, Pablo Emilio Madero the fourth, Gabriel Remus the third, and Luis Felipe Bravo the fifth.

During the evening session the convention delegates approved the nominations for the second multimember district, with Alfredo Ling Altamirano in the top spot, followed by Gilberto Zapata, Juan de Dios Castro, Jorge Zermeno, Raymundo Gomez, Rafael Tovar, Humberto Flores Cuellar, and Victor Manuel Martinez, among others.

The PAN leader in Mexico City was not really the issue that sparked debate in the afternoon; rather, it was the nomination of Francisco Jose Paoli, the former rector of the UAM [Metropolitan Autonomous University], and Fauzi Hamdam, an intellectual.

Some speakers asked why these two intellectuals were being placed on the list when they are not members of PAN. Paoli, for example, was third on the slate, which practically assures him a seat, while Fauzi holds the eighth spot.

The same nomination proposal includes Diego Fernandez de Cevallos in the second spot, Ana Teresa Aranda in the fourth, and Cecilia Romero, Victor Orduna, Luis Gonzalez, and Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas in the others.

At the rostrum, Juan de Dios Castro defended Paoli and Hamdam, saying that PAN ought to be generous enough to open itself up to society, besides which the party needs to be represented in the chambers by legislators who are intellectually well prepared and who can therefore do a decent job.

Another speaker who defended the nominations recalled that in the 1940's PAN nominated Luis Cabrera even though he did not belong to the white and blue party.

Until then things were going fine, at least for Conchello.

But Deputy Jaime Avina then took the floor to voice an additional challenge to the nominations: "I object to the presence of Jose Angel Conchello at the top of the list, because you cannot whistle and eat pinole at the same time," he said.

He then lashed into Conchello, who listened somewhat surprised from the audience, seated next to other members of the capital city delegation, one of the 23 that made up a quorum at the opening session.

Avina added that in 1988, with Conchello in charge, PAN for the first time came in third in the Federal District (DF) voting.

He said that it was a fact that the PAN presence has declined appreciably and that today the regional committee needs to be chaired by a full-time person, either Conchello or someone else.

"Do not bite off more than you can chew," Avina added, raising the tone of his remarks. He then charged: "We are losing our presence in the capital."

He then asked Conchello "to adopt a more responsible attitude as regional chief and to decide one way or the other."

Francisco Solis Peon spoke up in defense of Conchello, asserting from the rostrum amid shouts that Avina's opinion stemmed from "a problem of personal differences."

Solis Peon emphasized that it was untrue that PAN has grown weaker in Mexico City, recalling that whereas it previously did not have a federal deputy by majority, it now has three.

In passing he mentioned Pablo Emilio Madero as another PAN member who, like Conchello, has strengthened his party.

And then came the whistles, shouts, and jeers at the mention of Pablo Emilio Madero's name, a sort of preview of what is in store this Sunday when the convention votes on the nominations that will place him at the top of the slate for the fourth multimember district.

The attack on Jose Angel Conchello redoubled as the president of the assembly tried in vain to restore order.

Federal Deputy Luisa Maria Calderon also lashed out at him. She was backed up by another deputy, Jose Luis Luege.

At the close of the vote, which went against Conchello and sent the nominations back to committee for amendment (the final debate will be this Sunday), he said:

"This assembly does not reflect the will of National Action. It reflects the will of the Guanajuato members.

They account for half of the turnout. This is why they were against our voting by delegations. They make up almost 50 percent of the delegates who are in attendance and have been ordered to vote against me without even knowing me."

He added: "The boys whom we see here together are from Puebla and the UPAEP [expansion not given], a private university that has become a center of the far right and that is penetrating the party."

"You," he went on to say, addressing reporters, "have been able to see how these boys followed orders automatically. They began the shouting. How they manipulated everyone else, because they, let us come out and say it, know about following orders. They do not operate the way the rest of us do, without organization, as you can now see."

He explained that in his judgment "this has happened for various reasons, which I do not care about, but it tells me and it ought to tell true members of PAN that we now have to defend the party more strongly."

If this was a scheme, who concocted it? Who is to blame?

"I suppose," said Conchello, "that it is the Guanajuato steering committee, because they gave the orders to Guanajuato delegates to vote against me without knowing me. I think that the CEN [National Executive Committee] has nothing to do with this decision because it recommended me."

"But why?"

"Perhaps because I am more traditional," he explained.

"In your judgment, has a rift in PAN been highlighted today?"

He did not hesitate in replying:

"Not because I was nominated by the National Executive Committee or anyone in the Federal District. The members of the CEN think that I could hold the post of deputy, and it now turns out that they were wrong."

Arriving in the morning at the Leon Fair Auditorium, the scene of the debates, Luis Hector Alvarez, Abel Vicencio Tovar, Jose Angel Conchello, Ernesto Ruffo, and Salvador Nava, among others, encountered at the entrance a demonstration protesting "antidemocratic tactics" by the party in Puebla.

Slightly more than 20 PAN members were calling on the CEN to step in and put an end to the atmosphere of imposition and repression that they say they are experiencing at the hands of Francisco Frayle, the regional chief.

Federal Deputies Juan Jose Medrano, Rosalia Ramirez, and Jesus Bravo, who were not accredited as delegates and therefore were not allowed into the hall, accused Luis H. Alvarez of "covering up antidemocracy for the last three years in Puebla."

Evening Rally

"We are not expecting gifts from the regime, nor are we asking it or its mercenaries for them," said Luis H. Alvarez, the PAN president, this evening in a speech to thousands of PAN members gathered in this city's main square.

"We demand respect for the law, clean elections, and decency in the institutions responsible for the process. We intend to arrive at election day with a large, organized, peaceful, and vigorous civic exercise that will force the authorities to obey the will of the people," he added.

Standing beside Vicente Fox, a candidate for governor, Alvarez said that PAN is not unaware "what sort of adversaries it is up against."

He said, summarizing:

"We know well that the central government still has a sort of secret reserve of electoral crimes that it is ready to make use of if the people allow it to, the same old tricks that wound the dignity of Mexicans and that tarnish, both here and abroad, Mexico's name and honor.

"We know that after the ruling-party candidate is nominated in Mexico City, to the embarrassment even of Guanajuato PRI members, attempts will be made to impose him even though he is not a local [pese a su desarraigo]."

In an interview in the morning he asserted that the nonviolence pacts like the one that the various political forces, except the PRD, signed in the DF will be complied with "only if the vote is respected."

During the rally six PAN gubernatorial candidates (Guanajuato, Colima, Nuevo Leon, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, and Sonora) and the governor of Baja California, Ernesto Ruffo, made public the Leon Proclamation.

In it they pledge to work together to defeat voter abstention through the strategy of encouraging citizen involvement and then to defend the vote through equally joint action.

* Details of 'Proclamation'

91CA0124D Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 21 Apr 91 p 10

[Report by correspondent Oscar Camacho]

[Text] Guanajuato, Guanajuato, 20 Apr—The PAN [National Action Party] candidates for governor of Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi, Colima, Sonora, Queretaro, and Guanajuato have signed a document here to encourage citizens to vote and to defend effective suffrage and clean elections.

"The Proclamation of Leon," which was also signed by the governor of Baja California, Ernesto Ruffo Appel, as

an honorary witness, was made public during a combined rally that these PAN candidates held in this city: Vicente Fox (Guanajuato), Salvador Nava (San Luis Potosi), Rogelio Sada (Nuevo Leon), Arturo Nava (Queretaro), Moises Canale (Sonora), and Jose Ramos (Colima). During the rally they stated that "the aim of this pledge is to channel the energies of citizens along the route of democracy to achieve justice and broaden the paths of liberty."

The first point in the "Proclamation of Leon" sets forth the aim of "achieving citizen involvement in politics" at the upcoming elections. To this end they pledge to exchange opinions, ideas, and strategies through frequent meetings in order to defeat voter abstention.

The goal, as the second paragraph indicates, will be "to garner a majority vote of the people for PAN," and as a strategy for achieving "a true transformation of society" it calls for an acceptance of the need for change in Mexico and "the determination to work for it."

They also pledge to channel the vote towards the "standard bearers of the common good, of the most pressing social causes, of the defense of human rights, and of the achievement of what Mexico demands."

They assert that together they will demand that electoral institutions respect the vote of the citizenry and that they will make use of every avenue of appeal during the various stages of the electoral process.

Lastly, they indicate that they will seek to share a government program that aims at developing specific ways of resolving the people's serious problems.

They note that during their campaigns the candidates will exchange whatever proposals they formulate so as to instill experience in the government programs that they put before the people.

* Altamirano Dimas Statement

91CA0124E Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Apr 91 pp 1-A, 33-A

[Report by correspondent Juan Ochoa Vidal]

[Text] Leon, Guanajuato, 21 Apr—At the closing session of the PAN [National Action Party] National Convention the DHIAC [Comprehensive Human Development and Citizen Action] "far right" won out over the traditionalists, and although Luis H. Alvarez asserted that "there was no revanchism here; rather, the rough edges were smoothed out," Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas complained from the rostrum that "this was a settling of scores, a witch hunt."

Jose Angel Conchello, who was removed from the lists of potential multimember-district deputies, which were rounded out today, left the hall annoyed, as did the delegates from Veracruz, shouting "there is no democracy here," while Pablo Emilio Madero, who was said to be "responsible for causing division in the party," said: "It is fine with me" after managing to get fifth spot on the list.

In midmorning, as the members of the DHIAC were lashing out at Pablo Emilio Madero and Gabriel Jimenez Remus, who headed the slate of candidates from the fourth multimember district, the candidate for governor of Guanajuato, Vicente Fox, chose to leave and watch a soccer match.

Luis H. Alvarez, the leader of the party, feels that the outcome of the 39th National Convention has been, in any event, exemplary, inasmuch as "we have demonstrated that we practice inside the party what we are proposing to the people: the exercise of democracy." He then clarified that in every exercise of democracy there is dissent, but the important thing is that it be expressed along institutional channels."

"The most outstanding thing about this convention is that we have demonstrated that here there is no revanchism," Alvarez said at an impromptu press conference.

Previously, in his closing address he described the convention as "open, participatory, and enthusiastic" in its two sessions, from which we can conclude that "National Action has once again passed the test."

The PAN leader said that "there was freedom of expression" during the deliberations that resulted in the slates of 40 candidates for each of the five multimember districts.

Conchello left the auditorium, alongside several members of the DF [Federal District] delegation, as soon as the convention passed the amended nominations, from which his name had been stricken. Ricardo Ituarte also turned down his nomination in solidarity with Conchello.

Intellectuals Francisco Jose Paoli and Fausi Hamdam were included on the slates. They are not members and were the initial cause of yesterday's debate during which Jose Angel Conchello was challenged. Paoli is in the second spot on the list and is practically assured a seat.

Conchello's removal was portrayed as a "stepping down," as announced from the rostrum by Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas, who expressed Conchello's "gratitude" to PAN members from Guanajuato for their "support."

Later, the assembly rejected the nominations that had Pablo Emilio Madero heading up the slate in the third district. The conflict was subsequently settled by dropping him to the fifth spot. To settle another complaint submitted by the Veracruz PAN member, Arturo Nunez was placed in the 11th spot on the same list. This did not, however, satisfy these members of the white-and-blue party, who kept demanding the floor until they finally decided to leave the auditorium.

Gabriel Jimenez Remus, a leader of the FDD [Democratic Doctrine Forum] forum, was also challenged. He

was blamed several times for promoting a rift in PAN. Nevertheless, when a vote was taken, he held his spot.

Luis Felipe Bravo took the top spot on the slate for the fifth district. As these nominations by the Durango delegates were being voted on, the shout of "Resign, Luis, if you have self-respect" could be heard.

The reading of the decision on the case of Pablo Emilio Madero was left for last. It was five in the afternoon. Many had already left to eat, and the auditorium was only half full.

Altamirano Dimas defended Madero, as he did Conchello. He said that it was inconceivable to subject a former national president of the party, a former presidential candidate, and a worthy and competent former deputy to the "tactlessness" of being put in the fifth spot on the slate.

"Let us overcome our differences," he proposed.

In an interview at this time Madero declared that in spite of the intense debate that characterized the PAN National Convention, at which according to participants personal matters were highlighted, there is no split in PAN.

"There is none for the simple reason that people are speaking clearly. There would be if the leadership bodies were being manipulated, but we are fighting to maintain the integrity of the party, to keep our principles unscathed, and at the same time to enable the tradition and the principles that govern us to last."

Fine With Me: Madero

Madero had this to say about Deputies Jaime Avina and Luisa Maria Calderon, members of the DHIAC, who were in charge of lashing out at the traditionalists during the convention:

"When the DHIAC people, for example, join National Action, they can as individuals propose changes, but what they cannot do is first join as individuals and then act as a group. This is improper. As individuals they are welcome, but not as a group."

"What do you think of Conchello's stepping down?"

"I would have preferred that he not step down because in so doing he is saying that the DHIAC members from the Federal District who were making fun of him are right. In speaking out, he very clearly upbraided the DHIAC people, and so did I, and now I am being rejected by the people from this group, who are the heirs of MURO [New Direction University Movement]. I speak out against them because I have an obligation to."

"What do you think about being moved to fifth place on the list?"

Sitting in the auditorium while speakers at the rostrum continue to challenge him with the argument that he does not deserve to be on the slate even in that spot, Madero smiles and exclaims:

"Let the convention decide, because it is fine with me! I left my pride hanging on a nail at the entrance to my house a long time ago. Out of pride, it is fine with me. If you come to Monterrey, you will see that there could be as many as four editorials against me in the papers on the same day. What matters most to me is peace of mind."

For his part, Conchello stated that he is not worried about having been removed from the list of candidates who already have a "lock" on a multimember-district seat.

He asserted that he has the capacity to become a federal deputy again, first by winning a primary in his party and then a majority of the overall vote.

The slate for the second multimember district was issued last night; it is headed by Alfredo Ling Altamirano.

The following are some of the names near the top, beside those already mentioned:

Fernando Estrada Samano, Raul Velasco Gomez, Luisa Urrecha Beltran, Rafael Morgan Alvarez, Juan Enrique Cabalero Peraza, Jose Luis Duran Reveles, Jose Raul Hernandez, Salvador Lopez Sanchez, Hiram de Leon Rodriguez (who replaced Madero in the top spot on one of the lists), Lidia Madero de Martinez, Daniel de la Garza, and Hugo Sergio Palacios.

*** Partial Candidate List**

91CA0124F Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 22 Apr 91 p 5

[Report by correspondent Camacho Guzman]

[Text] Leon, Guanajuato, 21 Apr—The 39th National PAN [National Action Party] Convention has concluded here with the political edge going to the national leadership headed by Luis H. Alvarez, with an internal split by the FDD [Democratic Doctrine Forum], and with the strengthening of "far right" groups such as the DHIAC [Comprehensive Human Development and Citizen Action]. After intense debates during which there were heated confrontations, the full session approved the slates of candidates for multimember-district deputy seats. Jose Angel Conchello "excluded himself" from these lists "for the good of the party," while room was made on them for intellectuals such as Francisco Jose Paoli Bolio and Fauzi Hamdam, who do not belong to the party.

At the close of the two-day gathering, Luis H. Alvarez, the PAN president, asserted that the results of the convention show clearly that "there was no revanchism" at it and that in PAN "it is possible to live with our differences, because far from constituting an obstacle to our organization, this is what distinguishes it from other parties."

He rejected the charges about the "manipulation" of the convention and contended that "the interest of the National Executive Committee (CEN) has been to foster

the unfettered involvement of all. An effort was made so that no point of view would go unexpressed, and we have shown that in PAN we are willing to run the risks of democracy, because what we practice inside the party is what we are proposing for the entire nation of Mexico."

FDD members Pablo Emilio Madero and Bernardo Batiz did not share Alvarez's views; they indicated that owing to several obsolete points in the bylaws the various groups and factions within the party were not proportionally represented at the convention and that consequently most of the more than 3,000 delegates represented the sense of only part of PAN nationwide.

They spoke of "a strategy" to "discredit" the members of the FDD and identified "DHIAC infiltrators into PAN," specifically Jaime Avina and Jose Luis Luege, as the ones who carried out this strategy. During the debate on the multimember-district slates, Avina and Luege were the strongest opponents of the candidacies of FDD members Gabriel Jimenez Remus, Pablo Emilio Madero, and Jose Angel Conchello.

"This should be a warning to the party, because right-wing extremist elements cannot be allowed to consolidate their positions and influence our organization's decisions to such a degree," Batiz and Madero stated.

The second and last day of the PAN National Convention was just as intense as the first, so much so that the chairman of the debate session, Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, had to make full use of his powers and the bylaws to keep the discussions civil and to maintain order, since, as happened to Gabriel Jimenez Remus the day before, the session seemed to be breaking down.

The nomination of FDD member Pablo Emilio Madero for the top spot on the third slate up for debate triggered heated attacks on and defenses of him.

The harshest attacks came from federal Deputy Leonor Sarre of Tamaulipas. In challenging Madero, she asserted that "although his major past successes are to be acknowledged, the same cannot be said about the present, as he has done things that have taken a toll on the party. Madero is an intransigent who is partial to his followers and who criticizes the CEN for doing the same things that he is doing in his own state. What he says about the CEN not opening up is not true, but by so arguing the FDD has been striking blows at the Executive Committee."

Nuevo Leon Deputy Consuelo Botello spoke in defense of Madero, saying that those who are attacking Madero are doing so out of personal rancor. She asserted that she had not walked up to the rostrum to defend Madero but would up praising the rank-and-file work, the "planting of the PAN seed" in Nuevo Leon, that the former party president had done; at the same time, she called on the assembly to approve the Madero-headed slate and not "to allow itself to be guided by petty interests and personal attacks."

The vote showed clearly whose side the assembly was on. The original list was defeated by five votes and was sent back to committee for revision.

The slate for the third multimember district was ultimately modified thus: Pablo Emilio Madero was lowered from the first to the sixth spot; only then did the assembly approve it, but not without another heated debate.

Then came the debate on the first-district slate, which had been rejected the day before with challenges to the inclusion of Conchello and clarifications about the nomination of the intellectuals who were neither members of nor activists in PAN, Francisco Jose Paoli Bolio and Fauzi Hamdam.

Before the slate was submitted to the convention, however, Conchello's followers and other members of the FDD sought an understanding with the CEN. The proposal was that the original list would again be put to a vote in accordance with the bylaws, that is to say, a vote by delegations instead of by individual delegates.

When their efforts proved unsuccessful, they tried to have Conchello placed lower on the list; this was not accepted either. They then hoped to soften the blow of the delegates' rejection of Conchello by allowing him to retain his "self-respect." Instead of waiting for the second list to be submitted, Conchello announced through Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas that he would decline to be a candidate for a multimember district and made it known that he would seek to enter Congress by direct election. There was applause for Conchello, and the jeers that he heard the day before turned into chants of support.

In reading the announcement that Conchello was declining nomination, Altamirano Dimas said that "in this assembly, where our confrontations have had major difficulty...in being settled, the interest of the party ought to prevail, because those of us who are here did not come to argue bitterly over our positions." He indicated that after the lengthy debate during which Conchello was criticized, he asked that his decision to turn down a nomination be announced "for the good of the party and so that this convention could emerge as strong as possible."

Altamirano Dimas asserted that "independently of each individual's mistakes, reflection is needed in order to put personal interests in the background," and he stated that through him Conchello was expressing gratitude to the delegates from Guanajuato and to Vicente Fox, whom he had accused the day before of "manipulating the assembly."

Bernardo Batiz wanted to clarify that he had made his speech the previous day in defense of Conchello's nomination to distinguish between two totally unrelated issues: the attempt to exclude Conchello and the nomination of two individuals who did not belong to the party (Paoli and Hamdam).

After the discussion of the slate from which Conchello was removed, the delegates from the Federal District, who are headed by Jose Angel Conchello himself, took their state leader's removal from the lists out on Gabriel Jimenez Remus.

This happened when the fourth slate, headed by Jimenez Remus, was brought up for discussion. The FDD members and the Federal District delegates blame Jimenez Remus for Conchello's removal because he took the vote by individuals, not delegations. They called him a "manipulator" and reproached him for "making deals with the CEN."

This was the FDD rift, as represented by the unanimous vote of the Federal District delegates against Jimenez Remus. Nevertheless, this slate was neither amended nor sent back to committee. A majority of the delegates approved the nominations, which also had the unanimous support of the CEN.

The discussion of the fifth and final list was challenged by delegates from various states; they felt that delegates from the state of Mexico were being included in violation of the bylaws because there has been no state council there since the conflicts that prompted the replacement of the committee that Javier Paz Zarza chaired.

Catarino Gutierrez, from the Federal District, took the floor to challenge the list, arguing that it included candidates who do not identify with the Alvarez line. "We do not want any more deputies who are submissive to the president of the republic or the president of the party," he indicated.

After the debate Juan Antonio Garcia Villa said that since there was indeed no council, the decision that was made after the proposals from the municipal committees of Mexico State were received was to put the list in "strict alphabetical order." The convention voted yes, approved the last slate, and then adjourned.

Each slate consists of 40 candidates. Below are the first five names on each, as approved by the convention:

First district: Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, Ana Teresa Aranda, Francisco Jose Paoli Bolio, Cecilia Romero, and Victor Orduna. Second: Alfredo Ling Altamirano, Gilberto Zapata, Juan de Dios Castro, Jorge Zermeno, and Raymundo Gomez. Third: Hiram de Leon Rodriguez, Lidia Madero de Martinez, Daniel de la Garza, Hugo Sergio Palacios, and Pablo Emilio Madero; Fourth: Gabriel Jimenez Remus, Fernando Estrada Samano, Raul Velasco Gomez, Luis Urrecha Beltran, and Rafael Morgan. Fifth: Luis Felipe Bravo Mena, Enrique Caballero, Jose Luis Duran, Jose Raul Hernandez, and Salvador Lopez.

Belize

Minister Urges 'Fast and Sustained' Growth

FL2705163391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2013 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Belize City, Belize, May 25, CANA—Belize Government officials, private sector leaders, and others have been discussing the 1990-94 national development plan. More than a hundred representatives of government, agriculture, private industry, trade unions, and community-based organisations attended the meeting called by government this week. Economic Development Minister Musa told the meeting fast and sustained economic growth was necessary.

'To stand still is to go backwards, and to go backwards is to increase poverty and dependence,' he said. 'The urgent task is to raise income and productivity for sustainable growth while securing human development and social equity for all Belizeans.'

Musa said that while sugar, bananas, citrus, sea food, garments, wood products, and tourism would remain the mainstay of the economy, diversification into other areas was the key to cutting down the country's dependence on imports. Land reform was another part of the development plan leading to more equitable patterns of ownership, according to Musa. He said land use and coastal zone management plans would be implemented.

He reported that joint ventures in deep-sea fishing would take full advantage of Belize's vast seaward economic zone. Fish and shrimp farms would also be expanded dramatically, he said.

Inquiry Criticizes Ministries in Labor Dispute

FL2405155491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1512 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Belize City, May 24, CANA—The Belize Labour and Economic Development Ministries have been criticised by a board of inquiry for their handling of a labour dispute at a foreign-owned sewing factory in the capital, Belmopan. The three-man board of inquiry into a dispute at the Taiwanese-owned Civic Textile Company, found that the company had violated the provisions of its development concession by not observing labour regulations when in April it fired 16 women who had formed a trade union. After pressure from the government the company agreed to take back the sacked members of the Women Workers' Union but then claimed they needed to keep the factory closed until July 15 because of lost orders.

"Perhaps the most glaring fact to emerge from the evidence is the alarming degree of lack of professionalism on the part of the Labour Department," says the report. It says they failed to enforce the labour laws and factories regulations. "Particularly disturbing was the attempt to justify this by stating that nobody really observes the law," it says.

The Ministry of Economic Development is criticised for failing to make clear to the company the provisions of the labour code and to define the level of fair wages to be paid.

"Generally one has the impression that the required level of monitoring of compliance with the terms of the company's development concession is lacking on the part of the ministry," says the report. Referring to the employment of Central American refugees and migrants at the factory the report says there was confusion in both ministries about interpretation of the law regarding work permits.

The board's recommendations were given to the House of Representatives last week. More than 100 women workers who were employed by the company have been laid off until mid-July while the factory seeks new orders, following the strike in April.

The inquiry headed by former labour officer Gadsby Ramos was set up by labour minister, Valdemar Castillo to investigate the circumstances leading to the strike, determine if workers rights had been violated, and to make recommendations to resolve the dispute.

After taking statements in public for two weeks the inquiry's report says some of the women had been employed without being told what their rates of pay would be. There were also instances when wages and piece rates were not paid. The management introduced a piece rate in such a way that it was unclear to the workers when it actually took effect and how the rate was to be used in calculating wages.

"This was found to be a fundamental source of dissatisfaction which caused frustation among a substantial number of the workforce," says the report.

Management told the inquiry that there was low productivity, poor quality, and a poor work attitude. The head office in Taiwan ordered them to lay off "bad" workers and employ others, the civic representative said.

The report concludes that the firing of the 16 workers was motivated by the fact that they were members of the union. This conclusion was not supported by Eamon Courtney, the attorney representing the company on the inquiry.

The report says that there is an urgent need to reform the laws related to the effective recognition of trade unions, job security, and the establishment of a minimum wage.

El Salvador

Presidency Minister Justifies U.S. Military Aid

PA2905024891 Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Caracas, 28 May (AFP)—Salvadoran Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria said in Caracas on Tuesday, 28 May, that U.S. military aid to his country is justified as long as the war continues.

"When the conflict ends, the military assistance will no longer have a reason to exist. That is why it is necessary to reach a peace agreement," Santamaria said.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) "cannot ask the government and the Army to go without the resources which the Constitution has established for war situations," the Salvadoran minister added.

Santamaria is the chief negotiator for the Salvadoran Government in the talks that began in Caraballeda, on the Caribbean coast near Caracas, on Saturday, 25 May, to find favorable solutions for a cease-fire.

"Stopping the armed conflict is a point of honor for the government of President Alfredo Cristiani," Santamaria said.

The Salvadoran minister believes that if the FMLN adopts a "positive stance," the government, "which is positive, will have no problems in working for a democratic opening."

According to Santamaria, this could be accomplished "by incorporating mechanisms of change that can confirm and strengthen opportunities for all forces that have exercised violence so they can have guarantees to develop a normal political life."

The participation of different political tendencies in El Salvador will be sought so they can contribute to the search for a peaceful solution and to the participation of the rebels in political life, Santamaria said. He said that even the Communist Party was "receptive," but said its position will depend on what is decided at the negotiation table.

Returning to the topic of U.S. assistance, Santamaria said that if it is suspended, there would not be a great economic commotion in his country because the foreign debt fluctuates from $1.5-1.8 billion. The international cooperation programs contribute to "minimize" the foreign debt burden on the country, Santamaria said.

As for the cease-fire agreement, the Salvadoran Government representative refused to predict short-term dates, but he said work is being done in Caracas to reach an agreement in this regard.

"Any resolution will be made known by the UN representatives when the Caracas talks end," the Salvadoran minister said.

FMLN's Villalobos Views Talks With Government

PA2305192591 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 May 91 p 5

[Text] Commander Joaquin Villalobos, member of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] General Command, has ruled out the possibility of signing a cease-fire agreement in El Salvador before 31 May. Villalobos said that it would be "more realistic to say that this could be the year of peace in our country."

Yesterday, Villalobos presided over the FMLN delegation which met with the representatives of the Salvadoran political parties. The rebels convened the meeting in Managua to discuss with the politicians the difficulties of the negotiating process with the government.

Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], visited the participants at the talks. He said that peace in El Salvador is an effort "in which all Central Americans should get involved, besides the peoples and governments of Latin America that are participating actively" in the pursuit of the aforementioned objective.

"We are in the home stretch of the negotiations and the next round of talks will be decisive," said Villalobos, adding that the negotiation per se is a "process of reaching accords," which all sectors are carrying out in phases.

According to the Caracas Agreement, both the guerrillas and the government of Alfredo Cristiani pledged to consult with all sectors of the country to enhance the discussion at the bargaining table.

Jose Francisco Guerrero, secretary of the Legislative Assembly who represents the ruling Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], conditioned the ratification of the constitutional reforms reached in Mexico to the signing of a cease-fire agreement.

Referring to Guerrero's statements, Villalobos said that "the negotiations are already progressing and I do not believe that such a position can last for long."

For Villalobos, the upcoming phase of the negotiations, which will begin with the next round of talks in Caracas, is "conclusive." He said further that the most serious obstacles in the negotiations are the issue of the Armed Forces, the purge within the Army, and the creation of the new civilian police, which is "crucial for the discussions."

Asked whether the FMLN continued to support the "armed peace," Villalobos responded positively, arguing that President Alfredo Cristiani had said recently that the Armed Forces are not negotiable and cannot disappear.

"Our response is that the FMLN military strength is not negotiable either. Thus, if the two forces are going to be permanent, we are going to have to find another solution," Villalobos warned.

Gerardo Chevalier, deputy for the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party, described the government's conditioning to the Mexico Agreement as a violation of the same. He said that the Salvadoran problem is that the consensus at the negotiations has moved faster than the consensus within the Arena and the Armed Forces.

Chevalier stated: "If we objectively examine what has been discussed in the last 10 years in La Palma and Ayagualo (1984); Esquipulas II and the Nunciature (1987); Mexico and Moravia (1989); and Caracas, San Jose, and Mexico (1990), we will see that it is the same

issues that are being discussed now, because the problems in El Salvador have remained unchanged."

According to Chevalier, there has been no progress in the substance of the negotiations, but there has been in the political attitude of those who are negotiating. "This is what makes us believe that peace in El Salvador could come in the short term," he concluded.

Minister Warns of Possible Land Militarization

PA2405201091 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 22 May 91 p 2

[Text] Agriculture and Livestock Minister Mauricio Antonio Cabrales did not rule out the militarization of properties—either privately owned or belonging to the reformed sector—because of the constant land takeovers by peasants in some areas of the country.

The minister stressed that the country has recovered legality and order and cannot allow anarchy to gain the upper hand.

He also said that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front may orchestrate the land takeovers to make the peasants confront the authorities and bring the country to legal chaos.

The minister stressed that the land confiscation period has ended and that the government will not give in to new claims unless the owners wish to sell.

At the same event, the agriculture and livestock minister introduced Dr. Thomas Preston, an expert on animal nutrition, whose task is to show ways of obtaining greater meat and milk production at a lower cost. One of Dr. Preston's goals is to complete his work in 18 months.

Dr. Preston stressed that increased cultivation of sugarcane is needed because this translates into greater and more efficient animal nutrition and milk production.

FMLN Communique Charges Military Offensive

PA2805191591 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 May 91

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, National Army for Democracy in El Salvador on 27 May]

[Text] Army launches military offensive simultaneous to the start of negotiations.

1. The Armed Forces has launched an offensive, involving more than 100 companies that are already covering eight of the country's 14 departments and San Salvador, as a round of negotiations is just beginning in Caracas.

2. The enemy's troops involved in the operations are distributed throughout the country and include six elite battalions and more than 20 regional battalions. Meanwhile, artillery in the countryside and armed vehicles and vehicles equipped with artillery in the cities are being used extensively.

3. In San Salvador more than 10 companies of the Army and repressive corps are maintaining an atmosphere of terror with constant patrols and repressive actions.

4. The Army offensive is a useless and desperate effort to solve the conflict through military means, which primarily affects the working people. The Army has fired 105-mm and 120-mm artillery at densely populated areas, paralyzed rural economic activity, occupied communities, besieged new settlements; and captured, killed, and made peasants and opposition party activists disappear.

5. The unrest caused by the government's offensive is compounded by the implementation of threats to use military force against peasants who have peacefully occupied idle land.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front will not sit back and do nothing. It will keep with its commitment to defend the workers' achievements, guarantee security to the people in our territories, and the integrity of those territories.

If the Army persists in its plan to repress the popular movement by evicting the peasants who have occupied land to improve their situation, the National Army for Democracy will be forced to reply to that offensive attitude.
[Signed] Staff of the National Army for Democracy.
El Salvador, 27 May 1991.

Battle Reports for Period 20-22 May Detailed

PA2805184191

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of battle reports in El Salvador carried by the Spanish-language rebel stations, as well as other voice and press media between 21 and 22 May.

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish at 1400 GMT on 21 May broadcasts a three-minute report citing the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, as saying that "Cavalry Regiment troops sustained 12 casualties," after engaging rebels "in El Calvario neighborhood, San Antonio Los Ranchos, Chalatenango Department." According to the report, "Coprefa did not report any casualties on the part of the rebels." The report states further that "one soldier was shot after engaging Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, units in San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department." The report continues that "the FMLN increased sabotage attacks against national energy networks over the last few hours," after FMLN sappers destroyed two utility poles on 20 May at 2000 in Ilobasco Jurisdiction. This report concludes by stating that "two utility poles were destroyed on 21 May in San Pedro Nonualco, La Paz Department."

At 0000 GMT on 21 May, (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador carries a five-minute report stating that "the Atlacatl Battalion sustained five casualties," after engaging National Army for Democracy, END, units "on 17 May at 1300 and 1830" in Suchitoto Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department. According to the report, "FMLN forces clashed with Atlacatl Battalion troops in Palo Grande Canton, Suchitoto Jurisdiction, inflicting one casualty" on enemy troops. The report adds "that END forces clashed with invading parachute Army troops in Villa Victoria and Cinquera Jurisdictions on 19 May at 1500, inflicting four casualties." The report states that "other END units destroyed six utility poles in the area of Tenango, Suchitoto Jurisdiction, as well as two other poles near Santo Tomas, 16 km outside of San Salvador." On 19 May at 1100, the report continues, END forces launched an attack against three companies of the Victoria Battalion on the banks of the Rio Lempa, inflicting seven casualties "on the antidemocratic forces." In addition, this report says that on 19 May at 1700, eight casualties were inflicted on enemy troops in Nombre de Jesus Jurisdiction. The report states that on 19 May "END forces engaged 1st Infantry Brigade troops in San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department, inflicting four casualties on the Army." This report concludes by noting "the killing of civilian Ignacio Rivas, by Civil Defense members posing as FMLN guerrillas in San Miguel Department, which will be another crime that will go unpunished."

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 21 May broadcasts a six-minute report saying that on 20 May FMLN guerrillas "clashed with four companies of the Cavalry Battalion in Los Ranchos, Chalatenango Department, inflicting 41 casualties on enemy troops, including one executive officer and one section chief." According to the report, the FMLN units inflicted three casualties on 1st Military Detachment troops in Gallinero Hill and one other casualty in (El Calzate) Hill. This report states that "our forces have successfully repelled Army troops who tried to enter areas under FMLN control." The report states further that in retaliation, "Army troops launched a mortar attack on the civilian population of Los Ranchos, wounding two civilians, including a child."

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 22 May carries a three-minute report on the attack carried out on 21 May at 0100 by END units in the city of San Vicente. According to the report by the Anastacio Aquino Paracentral Front, END units entered "the neighborhood of Concepcion, destroying seven utility poles and carrying out propaganda activities." The report adds that the END inflicted three casualties on the Army in San Vicente. "Another END unit launched an attack with RPG-7 rockets and grenades on a National Guard position near a gas station," the report says further. The report states that "another END unit destroyed three utility poles and three power transformers on the road from San Vicente to Zacatecoluca, leaving the city of San Vicente without energy." This report continues that "END units took over the coastal highway in San Pedro Nonualco, La Paz Department, destroying two more utility poles."

Another three-minute report states that on 21 May at 0600, END units used sniper fire against 1st Army Brigade in San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction, inflicting two casualties on Army troops. The report states further that "on 20 May, END units engaged parachute troops in Cinquera Jurisdiction, inflicting four casualties on the enemy." On 20 May at 2000, "our forces destroyed nine utility poles in Ilobasco and Nejapa Jurisdictions," the report continues. It says that "on 20 May, END militias blew up three utility poles on the Cerron Grande-Ataqui line, at Ilobasco Stadium." According to this report, "on 21 May at 1315, 1st Army Brigade units sustained one casualty caused by a mine in El Pando Hill, San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction."

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 22 May broadcasts a three-minute report stating that END guerrillas clashed with "enemy troops" in El Salitre Hill, San Miguel de Mercedes Jurisdiction, on 21 May at 1100, "inflicting 48 casualties on the Cavalry Battalion." The report says that "our units forced the enemy to withdraw from the area, killing 16 soldiers and wounding 32 people, including the battalion executive officer and one sublieutenant." The report concludes by saying that "our forces captured one prisoner of war by the name of Jose Joel Mojica Franco," and "seized three U.S.-made M-16 rifles and one backpack."

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish on 22 May carries an approximately 350-word article noting the rebels' destruction of three 115,000 volt power lines in Ilobasco, Cabanas Department. This report highlights the increasing rate of desertions among "FMLN combatants over the last few weeks." According to Coprefa, in recent days "the extremists have been surrendering," along with their weapons and war materiel "to the Army and Security Corps units."

Guatemala

Increase in Army-Guerrilla Clashes Reported

PA2805142291 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 May 91 p 53

[Text] Clashes between the Army and the guerrillas have increased over the last few days in the departments of El Quiche, Peten, Chimaltenango, and San Marcos, according to a report from the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] released by the ENFOPRENSA News Agency.

According to the report, rebels ambushed two private vehicles carrying soldiers on the road from Santa Elena

farm to Tecpan Municipality, Chimaltenango Department on 17 May. As a result, three casualties were inflicted, including an officer.

On that same day, the rebels occupied a farm in Nuevo Progreso Municipality, San Marcos Department where they conducted propaganda activities. It was also reported that on 19 May rebels harassed an Army detachment in the village of El Decoro without inflicting any casualties.

The report adds that at noon on 15 May, the rebels attacked a helicopter gunship from the Guatemalan Air Force (FAG), which was overflying the Pueblo Nuevo barracks, Ixcan Municipality in El Quiche Department.

The report also mentioned an attack with rifle fire and grenades against an Army column patrol in the vicinity of the barracks mentioned above. The final report concerns the three-hour occupation of a stretch of the Northern Highway, only 9 km from the Playa Grande Military Base.

[Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE on 25 May on page 4 reports that Army troops and a guerrilla column clashed in a mountainous area of Huitan and Cabrican, Quetzaltenango Department, but the number of casualties has not yet been determined. According to local residents, the clashes lasted more than three hours. This report does not mention the date of the clash.]

Civilian Police To Replace National Forces

PA2705161491 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 24 May 91 p 3

[Text] Yesterday, Government Minister Fernando Hurtado announced the creation of the Civilian Police through the unification of the National Police and the Treasury Police, thus improving the citizens' security and avoiding duplicity in the work of these two agencies.

He said that the unification and centralization of the command of the security forces, through the fusion of the two police bodies, will help towards consistently implementing security programs and increasing efficiency within the security forces.

It is unnecessary to have a self-governing police to deal with each of the areas of crime, Hurtado said. Specialized sections will be created within the Civilian Police to deal with homicide and crimes against public finances and private property.

He added that the proper studies are being conducted and that the cooperation of the Congress regarding security legislation will be requested.

It has been reported that Colonel Mario Enrique Paiz Bolanos, who has been director of the National Police since January, presented his resignation to Minister Hurtado yesterday.

In a press conference, the official said: "I presented my resignation as soon as the new minister was designated. I am reiterating it now. Minister Hurtado will have to appoint someone else to replace me."

"It has been said that I resigned under pressure, but this is not true. I resigned of my own free will, knowing that the government minister will make the changes he deems necessary," he said.

The announcement was also made by Minister Hurtado, who said the resignation has not been accepted but that the changes, both in the police directorate and the Treasury Police, will be made in late June.

He said finally that the new Civilian Police directors will assume their offices after Chilean experts have completed a study of the planned reorganization.

* Impressment of Youth for Army Protested

91CA0126C Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] Residents of the town of Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, of the Department of Escuintla, have denounced over the telephone the fact that on 28 April members of the Mobile Military Police (PMA) used excessive force in removing a large number of young men from the local Catholic Church and recruiting them into the Army.

The persons who complained stated that the military personnel involved did not respect the religious services which were being held when they entered the church and much less the request of the parents that they stop mistreating their sons.

They stated that it is inconceivable that violence is being used for forced recruitment into the Army, since the Constitution and the Organic Law of the Army set down the procedures for the performance of military service. These procedures were not observed.

The residents of Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, Department of Escuintla, asked for the immediate intervention of the prosecutor for human rights to end these abusive actions by the Mobile Military Police. Many students who were minors and others who were the only support for their respective families were drafted into the Army.

Finally, they asked the military high command to stop its hostile actions against an honorable people and to act within constitutional and legal norms, if they really want peace for Guatemala. If they continue with the violence and high handed methods used in the drafting of the young men, a reply similar to that given in Atitlan will soon be made.

* 80 'Extrajudicial' Killings in First Quarter

91CA0126D Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 24 Apr 91 p 5

[Text] According to information provided by the Office of the Prosecutor for Human Rights, during the first

quarter of 1991 80 complaints of extrajudicial executions were received at the central bureau of this office or are presently being processed. The complaints were made even when the executions took place outside the Department of Guatemala, since close, family relatives of the victims complained to the central bureau.

It is stated in the report that out of the 80 persons who were executed in a summary and extrajudicial way 22 cases took place in January; 19, in February; and 39, in March. Thus, almost half of the executions which took place during the period occurred in the course of a single month.

Of the 80 persons executed, 74 were males and six were females. A total of 33 were of age and five were minors. The age of the other 42 persons could not be determined, since adequate resources to find this out were not available or the persons were simply unidentified.

The report of the Office of the Prosecutor for Human Rights also pointed out that a total of 73 persons were shot to death. Four others died of torture, one was beaten to death, and one other person was hit by fragments of a hand grenade which they threw at him.

For its part the report contains a note that "the bodies of several of the persons who died of gunshot wounds or who were beaten to death showed unmistakable signs that the persons had been tortured. In several cases there were clear signs of strangulation."

* Rural Groups Protest Trade Union Repression

91CA0126B Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 29 Apr 91 p 10

[Article by Rony Ivan Veliz, special reporter for EL GRAFICO]

[Text] Escuintia, 29 April—About 1,000 farmers carried out the fourth stage of their "March of Dignity for the Right to Life, Work, and Peace." It will arrive on 29 April in Guatemala City, after having covered 91 kilometers from Patulul, Department of Suchitepequez. They have demanded the reemployment of 60 workers from "La Torre" ranch in Pochuta, Department of Chilaltenango. This was stated by Byron Morales of the Trade Union of Guatemalan Workers (Unsitragua).

The burning sun beat down on the backs of several women who walked with their children behind them "to demonstrate to the government and to employers that the trade union struggle will continue in search of its just claims." This was stated by a woman leader of the Committee of Farmers Unity (CUC) when she was interviewed.

Byron Morales added: "'Stop Antitrade Union Repression' was the slogan on one of the banners which the workers of Unsitragua carried. The banners denounced the constant reprisals carried out against the workers affiliated with trade union, student, and farmer organizations."

Leaders of UASP (Unity of Trade Union and Popular Action) have stood with the workers fired from the farms, assembly plants, textile mills, and funeral establishments and demanded that they be rehired.

"No incidents took place during the 91 kilometers which we covered." This was stated by leaders of the Association of University Students (AEU), the National Council of Displaced Persons of Guatemala (CONDEG), the National Coordinating Board of Widows of Guatemala (Conavigua), and other people's organizations.

Byron Morales of Unsitragua said: "On 29 April we will be covering the last 28 kilometers from Amatitlan to Guatemala City, where the farmers from "La Torre" ranch will camp out in Central Park until they are rehired, now that there is a verdict from a labor court in favor of the 60 farmers from that ranch who were unjustly fired."

* Grinding Rural Poverty Nationwide Described

91CA0126A Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 27 Apr 91 pp 12-13

[Article by Rene Arturo Orellana Gonzalez]

[Text] At the end of the 1980's Guatemala had a population of 8.7 million, 70 percent of whom were in dire poverty, 15 percent were in a state of less than extreme poverty, and only 15 percent were not poor.

The majority of the population in dire poverty, or 70 percent, lives in the rural areas. Of the rest of the very poor population about 19.2 percent live in the capitals of departments and in towns in rural areas of the countryside, while the remaining 10.8 percent live in more than 100 urban residential areas and outlying sections or belts of misery in Guatemala City.

The rural, economically active (PEA) population of 10 years of age or older who are employed amounts to about 1.3 million people, 92 percent of whom are males living in 772,000 family units spread out throughout the country. They are concentrated in the southwestern part of the country, including the departments of Huehuetenango and Quiche, with 29.7 percent of the employed, rural population; and in the northwestern part, including the departments of Solola, Totonicapan, Quetzaltenango, Suchitepequez, Retalhuleu, and San Marcos, with 19.6 percent. These two areas account for almost half of the family units.

Rural employment, in addition to agricultural and livestock raising activities, includes skilled occupations carried on within and outside the home or in the fields belonging to the family unit, such as the manufacture of nondurable consumption goods and farm maintenance work.

The magnitude of critical poverty in the rural area is described because 47.6 percent of the families are in the lowest social stratum of "poor farmer." Although he

works a piece of land from which he is able to obtain part of the basic food for his family and to renew the tools he needs for the continuation of the productive process, the poor farmer must add to his income by selling his labor to other producers to survive. In the north, northwestern, and metropolitan areas this group makes up 60 percent of the rural work force. An additional 34.5 percent are made up of medium income farmer families. They work exclusively for a salary, whereas comfortable, farmer families constitute a minority and are in the highest stratum in our rural areas.

About 54.1 percent of the poor families cultivate land of less than one manzana in area. Some 43.7 percent cultivate stretches of land from one to less than five manzanas. These areas are not large enough to provide the goods necessary for the subsistence of families made up of six or more persons.

Poor farmer families work 361,000 parcels of land covering 447,000 manzanas, which amounts to about 7.5 percent of the farm area in the country. This corresponds to 1.2 manzanas per family, on the average.

The 772,000 family units include 1,252,000 persons who make up the rural working force employed in the country. Of them 633,000 persons, or 50.6 percent of the total, constitute the poor farmer class, the most heterogeneous of all social strata. About 55.6 percent of them work for themselves and their families, while 44.4 percent are seasonal workers and salaried, permanent staff. There are very few employers of farm labor. These data show the high level of proletarianization in this group of rural workers.

About 48.5 percent of this group of people work on their own land or in rural jobs for which they receive no salary. About 32 percent work on other persons' farms for other producers for payment in money and or in kind. About 19.5 percent work under a dual system, both within as well as outside their parcels of land.

The jobs of the poor farmers who are employed reflect some degree of seasonality during the year. Their numbers fluctuate from 615,000 workers from January to March, the period of lowest intensity in the production of traditional agriculture, principally basic grains, to 644,000 workers between September and December, the period of the greatest productive intensity. The levels of employment are respectively 2.8 percent lower and 1.7 percent higher than the monthly average for the whole year, when there is an average of 633,000 workers in this category.

The majority of poor farmers, 338,000 in number, representing 53.6 percent of the total, is engaged in working their own land, raising basic grains such as corn, beans, rice, wheat, and millet. At the same time 18.5 percent work for coffee producers, whose activities absorb about 72.1 percent of the rural work force.

About 74.3 percent of the poor farmers grow basic grains on their own land, while 70 percent of those who work on coffee and sugar plantations, as well as 90 percent of those who work on cotton plantations, do so on farms belonging to other persons.

The rural economy of Guatemala is based on three systems: the traditional, family production of basic grains; commercial, capitalist production of export products (coffee, cotton, sugar cane, and other commodities); and small, family agriculture, which has emerged recently and which grows products for which there is great urban and industrial demand. Together with capitalist production, the latter category generates foreign exchange and employment, which is organized on the basis of cooperatives and other forms of association.

The group of poor farmers, as a whole, worked a monthly average of 14,616,000 days between January and December 1988, on the basis of 23 days of work per person. Of this total number of days worked 30.2 percent reflected those working for their own account; 28 percent were seasonal, salaried workers; 22.7 percent were unpaid family workers; and 19.1 percent, the remainder, were permanent employees.

About 51.2 percent of their time was dedicated to the cultivation of basic grains; 19.3 percent, to coffee; 11.4 percent, to other agricultural activities such as vegetables, truck garden produce, and fruit generally produced on the high plateau; and 10.8 percent, in activities not related to agriculture and livestock raising.

We should consider that, in addition to the stratum of poor farmers, who number more than 633,000, there are 196,000 salaried workers, both permanent and seasonal. Together they total 829,000 people, or 66.2 percent of the total number of employed persons. Among them is an appreciable group which is also part of the poverty stricken population. Due to the low wages which they receive they cannot pay for the minimum family food diet, still less the national basket of essential goods and services.

Despite the fact that, during the summit meeting of 1990, the presidents of Central America and of Panama recognized that in addition to achieving peace it is necessary to ensure sustained, economic development, correct macroeconomic imbalances, and fight against poverty, all of these have remained theoretical objectives. At least this has been the case in Guatemala, since until the present no definite policy has been developed to ease the critical poverty of our people. At the same time it is a matter of common knowledge that social services in the fields of health, nutrition, education, and housing have deteriorated.

* $486 Million Negative Trade Balance 1990

91CA0126E Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 16 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] The merchandise trade of Guatemala for 1990 had a negative balance of $485.8 million, according to

the annual report of the Bank of Guatemala [Banguat] on exports and imports by our country during that period.

The Banguat report indicated that Guatemala imported merchandise worth $1,648.8 million, while on the export side the total value was $1,163 million, resulting in the negative balance previously mentioned.

The negative balance was due to the fact that, despite exports of $1,163 million, which were $45 million higher than they were in 1989, there was a $50 million decline in the value of coffee exports. The value of coffee exports reflected a significant decline in 1987 and remained stagnant during the following years.

The report adds that among the principal export commodities the value of sugar shipments rose substantially from $86 million in 1989 to $120 million in 1990, while there were no significant variations in the value of exports of traditional commodities such as cotton, bananas, cardamom, meat, and petroleum.

Nontraditional exports showed more positive results in 1990, when an increase in exports of more than $25 million is included. According to the report by the statistical section of Banguat, over the past five years nontraditional exports consisting of a variety of products increased in value from $128 to $257 million.

During the past five years a positive balance between exports and imports was recorded only in 1985, when it amounted to $102 million. During the other four years the balance was negative. In 1989 there was a negative balance of $546 million, greater than the negative balance in 1990.

Exports to Central American Countries Improve

Guatemala improved its merchandise trade balance of exports to and imports from the rest of the Central American countries during 1990. It had a positive balance with these countries of more than $152 million, due to an increase in its external trade of more than $40 million, the Bank of Guatemala reported.

The foreign exchange department of the state-owned bank reported exports from Guatemala of $288 million against imports valued at $136 million. The positive balance was generated by a diversity of products shipped to the rest of the Central American countries, from domestically produced green leaf and other vegetables to articles not produced in the country.

Among the products which Guatemala exported in particular to the other four countries were chemicals, food products, building materials, plastic articles, clothing, and tires, as well as cloth, thread, and yarn. During 1990 these products brought in $200 million in income and were part of a list of more than 40 products.

Guatemala had the best trading results with El Salvador, to which it exported products worth $144 million. It was followed by Costa Rica, with $73 million in exports; Honduras, with $38 million; and Nicaragua, with $32 million.

The trade with Central America has increased since 1986, when products worth $185 million were exported, to 1990, when merchandise worth $288 was exported, according to data received in Banguat from customs offices throughout the country.

* Basic Food Grains Imported To Offset Deficit

91CA0126F Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 20 Apr 91 p 5

[Text] The importation of basic food grains into the country has reached 3 million quintals, making up for a deficit in the domestic production of beans, corn, rice, and millet. This was stated by Dr. Gladys Contreras, director of the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (INDECA).

According to data so far available, 2,936,000 quintals of basic food grains have entered the country, at a cost of 24.5 million quetzals. This total will be greater in May, when the 1990-1991 agricultural year will come to a close.

Gladys Contreras said that domestic production amounted to 33.5 million quintals during this agricultural year. However, she authorized several import licenses based on established quotas, despite the fact that domestic production was 2 million quintals greater than it was during the previous agricultural year. Imports were also greater than they were during the previous year. During the 1989-1990 agricultural year only 511,000 quintals of food grains were imported. For the time being import licenses for basic food grains are continuing to be issued, with the exception of permits for rice imports, since the relevant quotas have already been filled.

Director Gladys Contreras concluded that INDECA is providing advice to the producers of basic food grains in the Peten area on the preparation of their applications to export their harvests to Mexico and Belize. INDECA has issued a special export authorization for those products, since it would be more profitable to sell them abroad.

Honduras

More on Attack Against Former Cinchonero Leader

PA2905003191 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 28 May 91 p 8

[Excerpts] San Pedro Sula—A 27 May report indicates that Roger Eludin Gutierrez, 36, former first commander of the "Cinchonero" Peoples Liberation Movement [MPL], is in critical condition. Gutierrez was shot four times in vital parts of his body in a San Pedro Sula neighborhood on the night of 26 may.

Gutierrez identified one of his assailants as a man who goes by the name "Raul." People who were present when

the attack occurred have also reported that the man was accompanied by a woman. [passage omitted]

Some time ago, Gutierrez—together with Efrain Manzanares, Fausto Orellana Luna, and Luis Rivera, the second, third, and fourth MPL Cinchoneros Commanders respectively—returned from exile in Cuba. They visited the Presidential House and were welcomed by the president. The commanders promised to abandon the armed struggle to form a political party in the country.

At that event, Gutierrez thanked President Rafael Leonado Callejas for his efforts and for having changed the domestic situation in Honduras. He added: "This obliges us, the MPL Cinchoneros, to modify our political behavior and our line of action and to say farewell to weapons so that we can start to take our position in the country's political life."

Speaking for the repatriated commanders, Gutierrez admitted MPL Cinchonero participation in the following actions: the takeover of the Cortes Chamber of Commerce in 1982, the murder of General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, and the foiled attack on a El Zamorano bank where 12 people were killed.

In regard to the bomb that was thrown at the National Party headquarters, the former rebel commander stated that this action was carried out by another Cinchonero group, which he accused of being anti-democratic and terrorist.

Rebel Group Issues Open Letter to Government

PA2905024991 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1222 GMT 28 May 91

["Open letter" issued by the Central Command of the Lorenzo Zelaya Revolutionary People's Forces in May in Honduras—read by unidentified group member]

[Text] Good morning, Honduran people. The following is an open letter to President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, National Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas, Supreme Court Chief Judge Jose Oswaldo Ramos Soto, and General Luis Alonso Discua, Honduran Armed Forces Chief:

The Lorenzo Zelaya Revolutionary People's Forces [FPR - Lorenzo Zelaya] hereby join the multiple and just voices of the people to protest against the government, landowners, and the Honduran Armed Forces over the repression in the rural areas and the tragic mass murder of peasants that occurred in May. We believe those sad incidents would not have taken place if the current government had a true commitment to land reform, which would serve as a instrument to redistribute the wealth in rural areas and promote social justice.

The nonexistence of land reform in rural areas increases poverty and suffering and openly violates the political, economic, and social rights of indigent and landless peasants, who constitute the large majority of the rural population. All of this is happening while you are proclaiming the existence of a political and democratic overture in the country.

For us, however, a democratic society cannot exist without social justice, land, employment, housing, bread, and the people's right to fully participate in politics. Although we regard as positive that your government allowed the return of some political exiles, we feel that the political overture of the government, the National Party of Honduras, and the Honduran Armed Forces will be a mere publicity stunt if a broad and unconditional amnesty decree is not issued. This decree must allow the release of political prisoners and the thousands of peasants imprisoned over land disputes. There must also be cancellation of suits filed by landowners against hundreds of rural leaders, and there must be full guarantees of safety and political rights for exiles that return home and all those citizens who have been persecuted and harassed because of their political views.

Mr. President, Armed Forces Chief: If the commitment to begin a process of political democratization in the country truly exists, issuing a broad and unconditional amnesty satisfies a demand and need of the Honduran people. To continue to refuse it amounts to running counter to Honduras' political and democratic development.

The FPR-Lorenzo Zelaya at this time reaffirms the stance announced in a public communique issued on 29 April to the effect that we do not believe that a solution to the country's current problems lies in the armed struggle. In fact, we state that the country right now needs the incorporation of all the political forces, without exception, into the civic struggle to build a democratic and multiparty society with political self-determination and social justice.

A basic condition to achieve that, however, is a broad and unconditional amnesty to allow these guarantees and the incorporation into the civic struggle of revolutionary and patriotic forces that have been traditionally excluded from the country's political life. In general terms, we think the minimum necessary conditions to guarantee democracy in Honduras are as follows:

1. Enactment of a broad and unconditional amnesty law;

2. Repeal of the antiterrorist law, which violates the Honduran people's basic democratic freedoms;

3. Respect for the freedom of organization and movement of the different Honduran sectors;

4. Respect for human rights and full guarantees of safety and free movement for defenders of human rights;

5. Effective restructuring of the DIN [Department of National Investigation] and true dismantling of the 3-16 and other paramilitary forces;

6. Drafting and implementation of a true land reform plan, with the direct participation of peasant organizations;

7. Reduction of the high military budget and an increase in the budgets for health, education, land reform, and housing;

8. Drafting and implementation of a true and effective social compensation plan, with the direct participation of groups from rural and city urban;

9. Amending the electoral law so that it guarantees the free participation in the electoral process of all of the country's political forces, without any advantage for the traditional parties.

These are the demands and rights the Honduran people have been striving for and will continue to fight for. You have it in your hands to direct the country on the path toward democratic development and avoid a worsening of the problems of unemployment, land shortage, hunger, poverty, and hygienic conditions, which weigh heavily on our people's shoulders. We demand a broad and unconditional amnesty. For national independence, social justice, and the democratization of the Honduras, let us fight until we win.

[Signed] FPR - Lorenzo Zelaya Central Command, Honduras, May 1981.

Nicaragua

Official Decree Reaffirms Restoration of Property

PA2805174791 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 May 91 pp 1, 20

[Report by Roge Suarez M.]

[Text] Yesterday, the Presidency of the Republic issued Decree 23-91, which reaffirms the government's decision to maintain Decree 11-90 in force and restore to their owners properties that were unjustly confiscated from hundreds of Nicaraguans.

Before announcing Decree 23-91, President Chamorro said that her government respects the separation of the branches of the state, and that is why it is honoring the Supreme Court ruling that declared Articles 7 and 11 of Presidential Decree 11-90 to be unconstitutional.

President Chamorro indicated, however, that she was issuing Decree 23-91 to honor the pledges she made during the electoral campaign; namely, to provide benefits to peasants under the agrarian reform programs and to do justice to people whose properties were unjustly confiscated.

Chamorro explained that by means of this new decree, her government also seeks to resolve confiscation claims within a few weeks and guarantee the claimants a property title or other valid document that acknowledges their legal right to their property and opens the doors of financing to them.

Thanks to Decree 23-91, the government will be able to devise a fair procedure to indemnify those whose properties have been confiscated.

The presidential decree states that for the country's development, it is necessary to organize property ownership and provide legal guarantees to the legitimate owners.

"All restorations and physical returns of state property that have already been made are respected and confirmed, as long as they were carried out by the competent authority..." according to one article of Decree 23-91.

In cases in which the Reviewing Commission had decided to restore an individual's property, but had not physically transferred it, the individual concerned should report to the Attorney General's Office to be told what state institution will be charged with determining the viability of the restoration or the value of the property.

People whose properties have already been returned, but who do not yet have a transfer document or property title, should also go to the Attorney General's Office to complete the legalization process.

Article 6 of Decree 23-91 recognizes that it is not within the purview of the executive branch to resolve controversies regarding the interests or rights of private citizens, as this is exclusively an attribute of the judicial branch. The executive may, however, rule on assets that are within its dominion or possession.

The government will make a list of all claims presented to the Attorney General's Office, and a team of data processing experts will present a complete report of the situation to the Presidency of the Republic, which will proceed expeditiously to issue a resolution on the claims filed.

Article 11 specifies that only state organizations duly authorized to do so by the Presidency of the Republic may transfer properties that are in the dominion, possession, or control of the state.

Article 12 orders the Finance Ministry to develop as soon as possible and present for the consideration of the Presidency, a system for paying off the value of properties that cannot be returned.

LA PRENSA on FSLN Role at Paris Meeting

PA2405030491 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 May 91 pp 1,12

["Correction" by Cristiana Chamorro B.]

[Text] For the sake of the truth, LA PRENSA wants to go on the record about the participation of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] contributing to the success of the donor's meeting in Paris. With Sergio Ramirez' presence and testimony, the delegates were able to confirm the existence of a national consensus in the search for foreign resources, a sustained economic development, and a permanent stability.

The foregoing was reported by LA PRENSA from Paris but, unfortunately, it was omitted by the editor on duty

who mistakenly put his political interests before the facts, something that is not right in honest and responsible journalism.

To recognize the FSLN contribution in the four conferences that preceded this one does not take merit away from the success of the government of national reconciliation headed by Violeta Chamorro. A government that received international recognition in Paris because of its policy of reconciliation, its concerted effort, and the consensus with all Nicaraguans.

LA PRENSA is correcting its mistake by publishing the original report from Paris on page two, in its entirety. We once again reiterate our conviction that the best way to help in the democratization and consolidation of peace in Nicaragua is by reporting justly on everything that happens—whether it is good or bad for the political interests of our reporters or editors—and by maintaining ample space for constructive criticism on the opinion page.

I believe we must emphasize that under the system of freedom of expression established in Nicaragua, following such a prolonged and tiresome struggle, much damage is done both by faithfully following an official order, as well as by hastily trying to erase the truth and by trying to adopt an unyielding critical and demanding position. To build a democracy while Nicargaua reconciliates is a difficult task and calls for everyone's patience and tolerance. A lack of this tolerance for an opposing view can result in one more way to repress the freedom we have achieved.

Peasants React Warmly to Visits by Daniel Ortega

PA2805160191 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 May 91 pp 1, 12

[Report by Martha Marina Gonzalez]

[Text] Madriz—Approximately 3,000 Sandinist militants and supporters from the towns of San Jose de Cusmapa, Las Sabanas, San Lucas, and Somoto have enthusiastically and optimistically received Commander Daniel Ortega, expressing their support for the revolution, as well as their decision to defend revolutionary achievements.

Daniel Ortega urged the Sandinists to be united, to help each other, and to see each other as brothers, and then to draw into this unity those who voted for the Nicaraguan Opposition Union and those who were involved with the contras. He said: "We Sandinists must be a model of dignity."

During Ortega's two-day tour through the seven Segovia municipalities, peasants and townspeople demanded the retention of Laws 85 and 86, respect for property, financial support for productive activities, and compliance with the agreements signed by the government and the workers.

The Sandinist leader explained that the current government had committed itself to respecting property allocations and all other revolutionary achievements. He stated: "It is up to us to help the government comply. We can help it, and at the same time struggle for the country's stability."

Daniel Ortega said that the threat of war has disappeared thanks to the sacrifices and the blood shed by Nicaragua's heroes and martyrs. He said that now there are revengeful sectors that want to take the land, houses, and lots away from the peasants. He stated: "Many large landowners are coming from abroad. That is fine, but let them bring in the money they have over there, and if they want farms and houses, let them buy them, but do not let them try to rob from the people."

In Teotecacinte, Daniel Ortega dedicated a drinking-water project. For the first time, the residents of the town will not have to carry water from the El Limon River. Much work by the community and the Sandinist cooperatives, assisted by the support of the Office of the Mayor of Jalapa and international solidarity, was necessary to make this possible.

Along the way from Ocotal to Teotecacinte and from there to San Jose de Cusmapa, San Lucas, Las Sabanas, and Somoto; Daniel Ortega saw that there were no Sandinist People's Army forces providing security along the road. He saw that it was the peasants who were organizing security, peasants who were on the roads from early in the morning until evening.

In Ocotal, a large group of people accompanied the coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front through the town's main streets. The local stadium was too small to house a euphoric population that made it difficult for Daniel to speak.

He said: "We do have a future. We have the privilege of being alive. We have to gain more awareness, more courage; we have to strengthen our morale and be united in this struggle so that we may firmly defend the revolutionary achievements."

At all the public rallies he held, Daniel Ortega asked the peasants if they had ever seen the rich landowners use a machete, or a plow, or a hoe, and they all answered: "Never."

In Cusmapa, the peasants and Ortega paid homage to Jose Maria Fabreto, a Catholic priest who died last year, as well as to 120 people from that town who have also died. There, a group of mothers gave Commander Ortega a gift, and Cornelio Diaz, a handicapped war veteran, recited a poem dedicated to the Sandinist commander.

Similar acts took place in Las Sabanas, San Lucas, and Somoto, where there were expressions of solidarity with the teachers' struggle. There, the Sandinist leader called for the creation of new popular struggle fronts and for the strengthening of existing ones. He also called for

street demonstrations if the revengeful sectors try to introduce bills that would work against the interests of the masses.

Japan Outlines Financial, Technological Aid Plan

PA2705183091 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 May 91 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Japanese Embassy issued an official communique today stating that the recent success at the Paris meeting for the payment of Nicaragua's international debt "is due primarily to close cooperation between Japan, the United States, and Nicaragua."

The communique stated that Japan, which had already pledged to grant a $50-million trade loan with the IDA [International Development Association] to contribute towards the $360 million Nicaragua currently owes the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, "after considering that the amount needed to pay off the arrears was not obtained, offered to study the possibility of granting an additional $20 million, thereby solving the problem."

An official document from the Japanese Government released today also stated that in the recent meeting of Nicaragua's advisory group, held in Paris on 16 and 17 May, an international support group for this country was created and a plan to solve the debt problem was drafted.

Japan indicated that the Japanese Government's contribution is similar to the one given by the United States, which has contributed $75 million towards the debt.

This support for Nicaragua—the largest in the history of a Central American country, the document added—was discussed at the highest levels between Prime Minister Kaifu and President Violeta Chamorro, during the latter's official visit to Japan last February. It was also discussed during the Japanese-U.S. summit held last April in Newport Beach, and it was the main topic at the meeting between Presidents Bush and Chamorro. In May, President Bush exchanged letters with Prime Minister Kaifu concerning mutual consultation on the two countries' support plans for Nicaragua.

"We should stress that the success of the Paris meeting was due to close cooperation between Japan, the United States, and Nicaragua, and at the same time constitutes an important achievement in overall cooperation between Japan and the United States," the Japanese Government said.

Japan began its technical-economic assistance to Nicaragua immediately after President Violeta Chamorro's inauguration. To date, Japan has delivered around 2 billion yen (about $15 million) in nonrefundable financial cooperation (donations), which has been used primarily to increase grain production and to improve the nation's standard of living.

In addition to the above-mentioned donation, Japan granted 900 million yen ($7 million) from the Nonrefundable Financial Cooperation Program [Programa de Cooperacion Financiera No-Reembolsable], which was not earmarked for any specific projects, to support the Economic Structural Adjustment Program efforts Nicaragua is making with assistance from the IMF, the World Bank, and other international financial institutions. Regarding technical assistance, Japan increased the number of scholarships it grants and will send volunteer Japanese experts to help foster foreign cooperation.

Since 1976, Japan has been contributing to the development of Central America, where, for the first time in history, all governments of the region are democratic. Japan's contribution to Central America has been as follows: 1986, $29 million; 1987, $85 million; 1988, $46 million; 1989, $168 million; and 1990, $135 million.

Germany 'Might Write Off' 66 Percent of Debt

PA2705201091 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1231 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Nicaraguan Assembly President Alfredo Cesar, who visited Germany and Poland for two weeks, said upon returning to Managua on Saturday [25 May] that the Bonn government might write off 66 percent of Nicaragua's foreign debt, estimated at $700 million. Cesar's remarks are based on the opinions of German Government and opposition parliamentarians he met with several days ago. Part of the $700 million debt consists of loans granted by the old GDR, which joined the FRG last year to form a single nation. Cesar said that the rest of the debt would be refinanced.

He also said that the German Government of the Christian Democratic coalition headed by Helmut Kohl, will grant $65 million in aid to Nicaragua in 1991, part of which will be used to make overdue payments to the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The German financial assistance will be greater next year, Cesar said.

President Chamorro Travels to U.S. for Checkup

PA2805023691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2120 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Managua, 27 May (DPA)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro traveled to the United States on 26 May to undergo a medical checkup in a Houston hospital. The government's press office did not give further details.

According to press reports, Mrs. Chamorro traveled with her daughter, Claudia de Jarquin, and will remain there until the weekend.

Vice President Virgilio Godoy will not be acting president, so the administrative affairs will be handled by Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo, the president's son-in-law.

Godoy is currently attending a meeting of Central American vice presidents in Costa Rica.

Panama

University Reform Sparks Clashes With Police

PA2505005791 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2333 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] After learning of the Legislative Assembly's approval of reforms to the university statutes —that regulate the administrative, faculty, student, and property aspects of the administration of the University of Panama—some university students opposed to the reforms blocked the Simon Bolivar or Transisthmian Highway in front of the university this afternoon.

A vehicle was apparently set on fire by students while the highway was being blocked. This scene shows the moment when Panama Firemen Corps members, surrounded by riot units from the National Police, removed the vehicle from the highway near the university.

During the clash with Public Force riot police, the students threw stones, and everything they could get their hands on, at the police who were attempting to clear the highway and permit vehicles to pass. The situation caused serious traffic congestion near the Transisthmian Highway, Via Espana, and adjacent areas.

This scene shows part of what happened on the university grounds after it was learned that the Legislative Assembly had approved the university reforms and the president of the Republic had signed the reform package. The bill is pending publication in the Official Gazette to formally become a law of the Republic.

Late this afternoon the highway was cleared by police units.

Police Use Force

PA2405200791 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 May 91 p 1

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] Crowd control units of the National Police on 23 May used tear gas and birdshot to disperse a small group of University of Panama students who had blocked traffic near the Simon Bolivar Avenue or Transisthmian Highway overpass.

The student demonstration occurred after a group of university workers had also blocked the same street for 45 minutes to protest the current Legislative Assembly debates on the bill amending Law 11, which regulates the University of Panama.

Major Luis Puleio, chief of the San Felipe Police Zone who was in charge of the operation to clear the street, said the students were warned several times to get out of the street but he was required to use force when the students maintained an intransigent attitude.

The university students responded to the police by throwing stones on the Transisthmian Highway.

Maj. Puleio stated that if similar university student demonstrations occur, the police will first try to talk with the demonstrators and if the dialogue is not successful, the police will take measures established by the Constitution.

No one was injured during yesterday's incidents near the university campus.

U.S. Said Involved

PA2505025891 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0110 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Panama City, 24 May (ACAN-EFE)— Panamanian police used tear gas and birdshot to disperse students and workers at the University of Panama, who for the second consecutive day staged demonstrations and blocked streets protesting the approval of reforms to the university law.

The demonstrators closed the main streets surrounding the university and set on fire a vehicle belonging to a U.S. soldier who was on the campus, apparently waiting for his girlfriend, but no one was hurt.

Riot police dispersed small groups of university students with birdshot and tear gas before clearing the streets. There have been no reports of any arrests or injuries.

Meanwhile, three students have been on a hunger strike since 23 May to express their dissatisfaction with the reform planned for the university's internal structures.

University of Panama Secretary General Miguel Candanedo said that the opposition Christian Democratic Party and the government, "obeying orders" from the U.S. Embassy in Panama, "are trying to curtail the university's autonomy" with the planned reform.

Candanedo made that statement today after the Legislative Assembly's approval of a law preventing, among other things, the university rector's reelection.

The law was sanctioned immediately by President Guillermo Endara and Education Minister Marcos Alarcon, and subsequently submitted for publication.

Candanedo warned that the "wide discontent" created by the university reforms could result in more protests and reiterated his rejection of the "connivance" between the opposition and the government in obeying "orders" from the United States.

Endara Issues Statement

PA2705193591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 May 91 p 1

["Communique" issued by President Guillermo Endara in Panama City on 26 May]

[Text] As everyone knows, the Panamanian Government turned to the Legislative Assembly to recover the University of Panama for the country. For this recovery, it was essential to reform Law 11 of 8 June 1981. During the military dictatorship, this law served as the instrument to approve the University's charter. To correct this situation, the Legislative Assembly passed, and the executive approved and enacted, Law 6 of 24 May 1991. The legal reforms necessary to save Panama's center of higher learning could be delayed no longer.

In the May 1989 elections, the Panamanian people demanded—and still demand—the elimination, from the nation's life and institutions, of every trace of the dictatorship that the country suffered over 21 long years.

The University of Panama, founded by Dr. Harmodio Arias more than 50 years ago, constitutes the greatest and perhaps the only opportunity for academic improvement that the government can offer lower-income youth who want to pursue a higher education. To fulfill these purposes, the University of Panama cannot continue to be the bastion of a shameful past that the entire country repudiates and demands be left behind. The University of Panama must be recovered.

In light of the government's effort to recover our national center for higher learning, people linked to the military dictatorship, happily dismantled by the will of the Panamanian people, want the university to continue serving their illegal and lowly interests. To reach these goals, these people are determined to go to the utmost extremes, as they themselves have announced.

Through me, the government hereby announces to the nation that under no circumstances will it permit the disruption of public order and that, to prevent disturbances, the government will resort to all measures allowed by the Constitution and its bylaws should that prove necessary.

Editorial Criticizes Recent Economic Policies

PA2505151391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 May 91 pp 1, 4a

[Editorial: "Economic Policies"]

[Text] Narcodictatorship lasting 21 years has left us with an overextended, overmanned, bloated, and obese state that tries serving everyone but cannot even manage to keep up with the classic obligations (security and justice, at least) nor with the modern obligations (social needs and development). In addition, pressures to serve the debt (even when it was containable) and the state payroll based on normal revenue, have left few resources available to attend to social needs or for priority public investments. That is why reforms in the public sector should have as a goal a move from the obese, squandering, and paternalistic state we inherited, to one that is lean and capable.

The economic modernization program proposes to reduce spending on personnel, increase public investments that are financed with private funds, privatize public enterprises and reform the administration of the remaining ones, restructure public sector financial entities, and cleanse the Social Security Fund's financial situation.

Panama has 20,000 to 30,000 redundant public workers and this has two main drawbacks: Public funds are expended on salaries and not on equipment or essential supplies such as hospitals; and excess personnel complicates administrative work, increases the possibility of corruption, and reduces competitiveness. Substantial cutbacks are needed to prioritize the social debt. In addition, the formula to carry this out—inertia and privatization—minimizes the negative social and economic effects.

For a state that intends to satisfy the classical needs of security, justice, and services that the market cannot supply—and taking into account the modern obligations of social promotion and economic development—it becomes difficult to fulfill the basic mission, if in addition to all this, the state has to take care of the production of goods and services. Here lie the two main reasons to privatize, which are fiscal and economic. The fiscal argument is obvious and simple: State production activities can generate losses that have to be covered by resources that should be dedicated to other things. In fact, even if these activities generate a profit, probably the income received would be less than what the state would receive from taxes paid if this activity was in private hands.

Economically speaking, state participation in production reduces general efficiency. Let us take the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] case: To have power rates that are twice as high as necessary costs the economy many more job opportunities than those slots that need to be eliminated to operate the IRHE efficiently. In addition, it increases production costs and reduces business competitiveness.

As for Intel [National Institute of Telecommunications], a new more forward-looking administration, with capital the government does not have and with the best technology available, would allow for the expansion, quality, and sophistication of services, a reduction of rates—especially on international calls—which are necessary for the country's competitiveness and would even allow for an increase in the number of employees. The National Port Authority needs to transfer port operations to a regimen of competitive concessions, keeping its assets, and supervising operations, as it is done in most efficient ports in Europe, Asia, and North America. Otherwise, we would be strangling the traditional sources of foreign exchange and the new opportunities to export goods and services.

The argument that we should not privatize because the operation is profitable does not make sense when we are

talking about a monopoly, the rates of which are not regulated by anyone. When privatization is done, however, it is necessary to pass laws regulating rates in a rational and objective manner. Laws should also be passed so that the state can intervene to protect national interests and ensure that services are provided properly. These matters, which are essential, are not included in the economic program. As a result, it loses its value.

The proposals for the reduction of personnel and privatization convey the message that the intention is to diminish the size of the government to ease fulfillment of its duties. The purpose is to modernize the Panamanian Government, an objective with which we fully agree. It is advisable, however, to present to the country a clear vision of what is sought; to fill in the missing elements; and to implement the programs that are needed to improve public finances, social services, and promote economic growth. Such steps, which are very necessary, will ontribute greatly to the nation's understanding, raise the level of debate, and facilitate the necessary consensus.

Endara, Arias View Economic Reform Programs

PA2805155791 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 May 91

[Report by Atenogenes Rodriguez on statements by President Guillermo Endara Galimany and Vice President Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon concerning the newly announced economic reform program; place and date not given—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Endara] "The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] is wrong. They are opposing the program simply because it is a government-sponsored plan. The PDC has backed most of the program, but now they are trying to make a mountain out of a molehill. The PDC originally endorsed the program, but now that they are in the opposition, they are opposing the program just for the sake of opposing it. This is absurd and harmful for Panama."

This is what the president said when reacting to the constant criticism from the opposition PDC.

On the other hand, PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon feels that it is inappropriate to issue statements when one has absolutely no knowledge of what is being said.

[Arias Calderon] "I believe that in a serious democratic discussion it is inappropriate to make statements when one has absolutely no knowledge of what is being said. I believe that in a democracy, neither the president nor the planning and economic policy minister, when announcing the new economic program, should accuse those of us who disagree with it of political maneuvering, demagoguery, or lies. The right to dissent should be respected in a democracy. The PDC's statements were made after completing a week of studies and consultations with economists, two meetings that lasted over five hours with World Bank representatives, and an internal several-hour discussion with the PDC's political commission. That is why our criticism is always well-intentioned, and is made so that whatever element may be lacking may be completed and whatever we see wrong may be corrected. The country can then have the plan it needs and the plan can have a chance to succeed."

In reply to those who say that the PDC now criticizes because they are no longer part of the government, Dr. Arias Calderon says that the PDC did in fact speak out when they were part of the government, but no one listened.

[Arias Calderon] "I spoke publicly about all these topics and I also spoke about them at government meetings. I can prove that I spoke out loud and clear about each and every one of these topics, but no one listened. No attention was paid because there is a resistance to change and in a democratic government this is bad. The difference between a democratic and a dictatorial government is that in the latter, one person rules and there is no reason to change points of view. The dictator's viewpoint will dominate, no matter what. A democratic government is different. No one person rules and everyone has the right to give their opinion. What is more, the government has the duty to put things right as it moves along for the benefit of the government and for the country."

Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon also referred to the reforms the World Bank wishes to make to the Social Security Fund, which the government denies, and for which Arias Calderon said that one cannot turn one's back on reality.

[Arias Calderon] "There is no difficulty in noticing the agreements with the stand made by the World Bank and other financial institutions with those the government is now making. This is a fact and there is no need to explain it to the country. One cannot turn one's back on reality."

These were statements by Vice President Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, who is president of the main opposition party—the PDC.

Finance Minister Discusses Budget Surplus

PA2605211491 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 May 91 p 1

[Article by Eduardo Soto]

[Text] The Panamanian state is "fooling itself" by not including allocations for paying its debts in the annual budget, thereby generating an "apparent surplus" in its finances, Finance and Treasury Minister Dr. Mario Galindo said yesterday.

Galindo, who participated in the "Loud and Clear" program, broadcast by Telemetro Television Network, said that the surplus that has been noted since last year is not entirely real.

The surplus that is noted in Panama today, the minister said, is the result of "budgetary manipulations" by the Panamanian state.

According to the finance minister, Panama is not meeting its obligations to creditors, even when it collects revenue, and this revenue later appears as an "alleged surplus" at the end of the year.

"The Panamanian state has not paid anyone anything," Galindo said. He explained that installment payments have been made only on outstanding debts to international financial institutions.

According to Galindo, the Panamanian Government owes approximately $160 million to local suppliers of goods and services, as well as millions of dollars to private banks and the creditors of the "Paris Club," accounts against which "not a penny has been paid."

If allocations for paying these debts were included in the nation's budget, there would be no surplus," the minister said.

In the first quarter of 1991, there was a budget surplus of approximately 50 million balboas, the use of which is currently being debated in the legislative assembly.

According to Minister Galindo, this surplus, which he described as "apparent," should be used for public works, in order to "generate jobs," and to achieve what he said is the government's goal of alleviating the social debt.

Church Weekly Calls Endara Remarks 'Slanderous'

PA2905043291 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO in Spanish 26 May 91 pp 1, 4

[Editorial]

[Text] The president has commented, using slanderous remarks against the Catholic Church, on the fact that PANORAMA CATOLICO published part of the report by the Latin American Human Rights Association, a humanitarian nongovernmental organization, on the granting of safe-conduct passes to some Panamanians —including some accused of homicide— who had taken refuge in foreign embassies. His excellency did not lash out against the association but against the Catholic weekly, which commented on a well-known event involving the president, who had stated on television that he did not agree that those persons should receive safe-conduct passes, because—we suppose—of the abhorrence the citizens of this country felt over bloodshed in a fratricidal action. The safe-conduct passses granted by the president, however, unblocked their path to freedom.

Regardless of the international and political commitment that may have existed, making remarks that not even the military rulers dared to utter against the church is unexplainable. When the commander of the defunct Panama Defense Forces became annoyed with the church because it came out in defense of the human rights of Panamanians who were waging opposition at that time —the president included—the top military leader made use of different forms of intimidation. He even brought a Protestant pastor to revile the country's church hierarchy. When that same leader, however, fell out of the empire's grace and saw himself abandoned by his own comrades and rejected by the immense majority of his countrymen, he sought refuge in the mother church, which protected his life and avoided a lynching. The church has no model of government to propose, as Pope John Paul II has repeatedly stressed. Its sphere of action revolves around ethics, justice, and peace. No leader, no matter how Catholic or democratic he may be, can demand that the church support his conduct, when it feels this conduct strays from morality, justice, and respect for human rights.

In this case, we have here a church newspaper. Although it has the backing of the hierarchy, it is not—as some may think—its official mouthpiece. PANORAMA CATOLICO's articles and opinions seek to be a Christian reflection on specific developments of our situation.

Neither the hierarchy, nor the people of God, nor this weekly are opposed to a democracy that, despite all its flaws, is preferable to any system of oppression and violation of human rights. Since we are allowed to give our views, we must do so in favor of a true democracy with all its ramifications, with physical and social security, without poverty, without the daily threat of unemployment, with drinking water, without blackouts, and where the welfare of society is not sacrificed to empty the state coffers and pay a most unpayable foreign debt to millionaire creditors who can very well wait.

To conclude, PANORAMA CATOLICO is a church newspaper that is distributed in the country's parishes and has a large readership. When the previous government closed the news media of the political opposition, the weekly's editions were tolerated despite the threat of closing. It continued to fulfill its duty of watching over human rights, as the priests did from their sacred pulpits. We will remain on the side of the church, clamoring for justice, security, work for the unemployed, and morality; respectful of our officials and expecting the same from them, regardless of who the president is or what system of government is in place.

Argentina

Minister To Speak on Armed Forces, Condor-2

PY2805154691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1456 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (TELAM)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez stated today that the message he will deliver to the population tonight will be "a political answer to the concerns that have been expressed by the community" on such fundamental topics as the military budget, the role of the Armed Forces, and the issue of the Condor-2 missile.

In remarks made over the national radio and television network from the Olivos Residence, Gonzalez stated: "We believe that, within the framework of a republican government, the community deserves an explanation on these topics."

He added that "we are going to calm the community," because "I believe that the message will clarify these controversial topics—the budget, the role of the Armed Forces—that are currently being discussed."

He explained that his address will be "a call for realism" because he believes that "there is a difficult situation throughout the country in this transition from obsolete structures to the modern country that we want to build, and all sectors are experiencing budget shortfalls."

Answering a question about the future of the Armed Forces, the minister stated: "We hope they will serve as a deterrent institution." He also indicated that the process of transforming the Armed Forces is not one in which to expect immediate results, because it will take time to accomplish.

In response to a question on the deactivation of the Condor-2 program, he announced that "as of July, draftees from the class of 1971 will begin to be demobilized." He stated that in July, 50 percent of the draftees will be demobilized, "while the other 50 percent of the class will be demobilized at the beginning of November 1991."

Air Force Commander Sanctions Presidential Aide

PY2505025691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 May 91 p 11

[Text] (NA)—Air Force Chief-of-Staff Jose Antonio Julia last night sanctioned presidential aide-de-camp Brigadier Andres Antonietti with a five-day arrest, reliable sources reported.

But the Defence Ministry and the Air Force failed to publicly confirm the arrest, triggered by "political" statements made recently by Antonietti.

The measure had been anticipated on Wednesday by President Carlos Menem, Antonietti's direct superior.

In statements published by a local daily, the aide-de-camp allegedly claimed that his position next to Menem made him "more powerful" than the chief-of-staff or even the head of the joint high command.

He also referred to the 30-day arrest of former chief-of-staff Brigadier General Ernesto Crespo, who had slapped a similar arrest on Antonietti himself in the last days of the former Radical administration.

On Tuesday, however, Antonietti ratified his subordination to Julia in a public statement. But this apparently did not suffice to spare him from punishment.

Last night, Defence Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez warned that "military personnel should be exclusively dedicated to their professional mission, without meddling in politics."

Sources said the decision to hand down a five-day arrest allowed Julia to issue the sanction without consulting the Defence Ministry or the President.

Disagreements in the Air Force surfaced after the decision to deactivate the Condor II missile project was announced a month ago, fuelling rumours of resignations and replacements among the top brass.

Boggiano Nomination to Supreme Court Approved

PY2505025091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 May 91 p 11

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (DYN)—Yesterday, the Senate approved the appointment of the new Supreme Court Justice Antonio Boggiano, 45, who will replace retired Supreme Court Justice Julio Oyhanarte. The Radical opposition voted against the appointment of Boggiano because the party does not agree with the expansion of the Supreme Court.

Buenos Aires Radicals Elect Party Officials

PY2905034491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 May 91 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Juan Carlos Pugliese and Norberto Garcia Silva (Renewal and Change) beat the Melchor Posse-Luis Sagol (Radical Recovery) ticket yesterday by a narrow margin during party elections which consolidated Raul Alfonsin as the Radical leader, and become the Radical party candidates who will go on to compete with the Peronists in the Buenos Aires gubernatorial race.

Alfonsin's Movement of Renewal and Change (MRyC) won 135,096 votes (42 percent) for the gubernatorial ticket. Radical Recovery of Posse-Sagol obtained 34 percent with 111,025 of the votes, and National Opinion Line of Juan Carlos Cabiron-Jorge Young came up with 76,327, or 24 percent, according to figures released by the Buenos Aires Province committee.

In one of the most hard-fought in-party elections since 1983, the Buenos Aires Radicals elected on Sunday [26 May] the party officials who will control the destiny of

the principal opposition party in the province until 1995, and nominated the candidates for governor, national and provincial legislators, city mayors, town council people and school board numbers.

In an unprecedented event in Buenos Aires Radical Party history, the card-carrying voters cut ballots for eight posts, divided among elected, district and section posts.

Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz called the results obtained by Melchor Posse in the party elections "exceptional" and said that it marked a "strong recovery" for his party. Congratulating Pugliese on his victory yesterday afternoon, Angeloz stated that for his sector "the results could not have been any better."

Finally, San Isidro Mayor Melchor Posse affirmed yesterday that "from this moment until October 27 I am at the service of Juan Carlos Pugliese. After that, as the representative of 35 percent of the Buenos Aires Radicals, it will be time to work for the presidential candidacy of Eduardo Angeloz."

Duhalde To Be Buenos Aires Governor Candidate

PY2505034491 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Vice President Eduardo Duhalde will run for Buenos Aires governor. Duhalde, who agreed to be candidate, said that his electoral campaign will last a month. He explained that he will ask for leave from the vice presidency as of 1 October to run for election on 27 October.

Duhalde said he was not pressured into accepting the offer. When asked if he is going to run against Carlos Brown, he said: I do not comment on internal issues.

Government To Build Gas Pipeline With Chile

PY2505221291 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2252 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 May (NA)—The Governments of Argentina and Chile have agreed on the general basis for the implementation of the project that will connect the Neuquen basin gas deposits to those of the Chilean [words indistinct].

In a communique, the Argentine Foreign Ministry emphasized that the agreement reached by the two delegations was based on the joint declaration signed by President Patricio Aylwin and President Carlos Menem on 29 August 1990.

The agreement establishes that the project will be implemented through direct negotiations between gas sellers and buyers, thus ensuring the total freedom of the entrepreneurs.

The new joint declaration was the result of two days of negotiations in Buenos Aires.

In the joint declaration, the two governments confirm their interest in connecting the gas basins and their intention to implement the project, within the framework of Chilean-Argentine integration process.

Ambassadors Alieto Guadagni and Felix Pena, among other officials, took part in the negotiation on behalf of Argentina. Ambassador Augusto Bermudez, who is the executive secretary of the Energy Committee, and Chilean Ambassador to Argentina Carlos Figueroa Serrano represented Chile in the negotiation.

Guadagni, who is under secretary for international economic affairs, said that the agreement "gives a new emphasis to integration that is consistent with the social economic policies being implemented in the two countries."

Commerce Minister Receives Iranian Counterpart

LD2805103291 Tehran IRNA in English 0909 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, May 28, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here Monday called for promotion of Tehran-Buenos Aires commercial cooperation in meetings with Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella and Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo.

Vahaji who arrived here Sunday heading a ranking delegation visited Brazil and Uruguay last week and discussed promotion of mutual commercial ties.

Wheat Sales Discussed

PY2805175291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1437 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 May [date as received] (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji today evaluated the bilateral wheat trade.

The two officials, continuing a meeting that began yesterday, met for 30 minutes and then went to the Olivos Residence to have lunch with President Carlos Menem.

The possibility of resuming large-scale sales of wheat to Iran in order to strengthen mutual trade has not been rejected at the Economy Ministry.

Bolivia

Council for Reform of Judicial Branch Created

PY2505014691 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] At the ceremony to establish the National Council for the Reform and Modernization of the Judicial Branch and to swear in the council members, President Paz Zamora said that the modernization of the judicial branch must lead to the strengthening of the democratic process. This modernization must be implemented not only for ethical reasons, but also because only thus will we achieve

economic and social development. The reform must support employment, productivity, and competitiveness abroad and is essential if we want to achieve stability, to meet challenges, to gain confidence, and to attract investments that will never reach the country unless there is a legally established system that proves to be trustworthy.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording in progress] ...in one of the first articles of the Constitution establish that sovereignty rests with the people, is inalienable, and cannot be prescribed [words indistinct] is delegated on the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and that the independence and coordination of these powers is the basis of the government. The government's structure, as well as the basic role of the judicial branch have thus been established within the balance of powers whose essence lies in the implementation of the law that is approved by the legislative branch and promulgated by the executive branch.

Law is extremely important to the extent that the correct thing to do is to speak of the supremacy of the law within a democratic system. There can be no democracy without law. This is the principle that defines the state of right which is based on the law, and which is democratic because it makes the law the expression of the people's will. [end recording]

The following are the members of the National Council for the Reform and Modernization:

President Luis Ossio Sanjines, Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, and Jose Ortiz on behalf of the Executive Branch;

Senators Gonzalo Penaranda, (Carlos Farraquin), Mario Cossio on behalf of the Legislative Branch;

German Gutierrez Grantier, Gonzalo Bilbao, Luis Vazquez Villamor, Benjamin Miguel, and Reinaldo Peteres on behalf of the Chamber of Deputies;

Hugo Galindo, Ernesto Poppe Zubieta, Hugo Dellien, and Marcelo Calderon Saravia on behalf of the Judicial Branch, and Attorney General Angel Valdivieso.

Edgar Oblitas, president of the Supreme Court, said that it is necessary to reform the Constitution to allow for the structural reforms of the executive and legislative branches.

[Begin Oblitas recording] I have considered the statements made by the president of the Republic when he proposes to reduce the state and to expand the nation. He is therefore proposing some reforms of the Bolivian state as a whole. In this case the reform must not only touch the judicial branch, but the three branches must be modified to make a more efficient and dynamic government, a government that can administer and legislate in an improved way. [end recording]

Paz on Results, Possibilities of Antidrug Policy

PY2805161891 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has stated that the national unity government is implementing an international policy against drug trafficking, which is resulting in the arrest of drug traffickers and the confiscation of drugs.

[Begin Paz recording] Bolivia finally has a government that actually arrests drug traffickers. We had become accustomed to hearing people talk about and discover things, but nobody was ever arrested.

The fact that the government's desire to struggle against immorality is being translated into deeds and not mere words shows our country's serious attitude. We should all realize that this is a national commitment.

It saddens me to see a fellow countryman arrested in his own country. Bolivia, however, has a commitment with the international community to make every effort possible to fight drug trafficking. Our possibility of fulfilling this commitment is tied to the foreign financial aid and cooperation we may receive for various programs to be implemented and also to our chances of placing our products on the international market. [end recording]

Brazil

EEC Lifting of Restrictions on Meat Announced

PY2805131091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Antonio Cabrera, agriculture and agrarian reform minister, has reported that the EEC has lifted its restrictions on Brazilian meat. The minister said that as of 31 May there will be no more restrictions on Brazilian exports to EEC countries.

Lack of Coordination Between Branches Noted

PY2405181791 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 May 91 p 3

[From the Notes and Information page: "Tremendous Defeat"]

[Excerpt] Brazil, rather than the Collor administration, has suffered a tremendous defeat at the hands of the Science, Technology, Communications, and Informatics Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. A bill sponsored by the executive branch which sought to modify the National Informatics and Automation Plan (Planin), was rejected and replaced by another bill. The new bill raises serious obstacles for the creation of joint ventures [two preceding words in English], it maintains double benefits for the data processing products made in the Manaus duty-free zone (the specific benefits of the zone

plus those of the informatics sector), it makes the importation of products more difficult, and it extends the closure of the market until 1994.

The executive branch bill was defeated because of a lack of coordination with Congress, where the government does not have a reliable majority. Following the rejection of the bill, the Planalto Palace learned that deputies who (were supposed to have) supported the government did not turn out to vote.... There is an obvious crisis between the Planalto Palace and the parties which the executive branch considers to be its supporters. [passage omitted]

Minister Urges Increase in Military Salaries

PY2405181391 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 May 91 p 3

[Excerpt] Brasilia—In the most vigorous statement made by a military minister since the Collor government came to power, Navy Minister Mario Cesar Flores warned yesterday that unless something is done about the salaries of military personnel, "demonstrations of indiscipline may occur." During a debate with members of the National Defense Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Minister Flores alerted that demonstrations could stem from the discrepancy between the salaries of military personnel and those of personnel of the legislative and judiciary branches, rather than from the low nominal value of the military paychecks. The Navy minister also criticized the clubs and associations of reserve officers for creating situations "that could undermine discipline."

Before the debate, Navy Minister Flores read a speech that criticized the lack of regulations in the constitutional provision on the equality of salaries [for high-ranking members of the Armed Forces and top officials of other state branches].

The minister said: "A quiet acceptance of the necessary sacrifice will only be achieved when it is recognized that it is not fair that a pilot of a fighter plane or a senior engineer of the Navy Arsenal receives a salary equal to that paid to medium-level support personnel in Congress or in the higher courts." [passage omitted]

Congressmen Denounce Activities of Other Deputies

PY2605224291 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 May 91 p 1

[Text] Congressmen have broken the tradition of the corporativism system of Congress, and they have started to denounce irregularities committed by other deputies. Cidinha Campos, (PDT) [Democratic Workers Party] deputy for Rio de Janeiro State, has charged Fabio Raunhetti, (PTB) [Brazilian Labor Party] deputy for Rio de Janeiro State, with fraud against the National Security Institution. Raquel Candido, (PRN) [National Reconstruction Party] deputy for Goias State, charged Mauricio Calixto, PTB deputy for Rondonia State, and two other deputies, whose names he has not revealed, with drug trafficking. On 24 May, Nilson Gibson, (PMDB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] deputy for Pernambuco State, charged Miro Teixeira, PDT deputy for Rio de Janeiro State, with being involved with illegal numbers gaming.

Oil Production Exceeds 700,000 Barrels Daily

PY2805132091 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] The new record in national oil production totals more than 700,000 barrels a day. In a speech at a ceremony dedicating the new Aracruz Cellulose Plant in Espirito Santo State, Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana announced that production had reached 703,974 barrels a day.

[Begin Santana recording] I would like to inform your excellency that last night Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] oil production surpassed 700,000 barrels a day. This gives us hope that we will produce more than 1 million barrels a day before your administration ends. [end recording]

This 700,000-barrel-a-day production is enough to cover 60 percent of domestic oil use.

* Informatics Import Control List Expanded

91SA0297A Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 30 Apr 91 p 14

[Article by Sergio Garschagen: "Government Will Control Importation of Components for Brazilian Products]

[Text] Brasilia—The directive of the Secretariat of Science and Technology that lists the 47 final goods in the informatics field whose importation is subject to prior authorization has been expanded, and the importation of the basic components of these products will also be restricted.

Jose Artur Denot Medeiros, director of the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Economy, said yesterday that a new directive—No. 6—is scheduled to be published today in the DIARIO OFFICIAL DA UNIAO reinforced by a list of 30 devices, parts, accessories, and components the importation of which will also be controlled by the government.

Publication of the new directive will have the effect of revoking the original directive. According to the explanation of the Foreign Trade director, the original list consisted of final goods on which the two import duties would be reduced gradually to an average of 30 percent by 1992. The importation of the accessories, parts, and components used in these same final products, however, was not controlled by the government. According to Francisco Marcelo Rocha Ferreira, the Economy Ministry's deputy director for industry, it would therefore be possible to import these products without restriction and

to assemble the kind of equipment whose importation the government wishes to restrict in order to protect Brazilian manufacturers.

Negotiations With ALADI

The new directive will instruct the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to negotiate with the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) with a view to establishing the duties on these components and accessories. Under the terms of the agreement already signed by the Brazilian Government with the member countries of ALADI, some of these products receive preferential trade treatment and some are even exempt from import duty. Inasmuch as Mexico is one of the countries that—like Brazil—has developed an informatics industry, many components manufactured in Mexico could be acquired by Brazilian companies which would then assemble, in Brazil, equipment that could not be imported without restrictions and must have prior authorization from the Secretariat of Science and Technology.

The Brazilian informatics industry had already become aware of this problem, which was discussed by the National Council for Informatics and Automation (CONIN).

The new directive also instructs the secretariat to announce in advance its approval of the issuance of import permits of up to $300 for parts, accessories, and components provided that the total does not exceed $5,000 per importer.

At last Wednesday's meeting of CONIN, Science and Technology Secretary Jose Goldemberg received from Ambassador Marcos Azambuja, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a memorandum stating that the Brazilian ambassador to ALADI had already been informed that the Ministry of Economy would supplement the list of 47 informatics items for which prior authorization must be obtained from the Department of Informatics Policy (Depin) of the Secretariat of Science and Technology. According to the ambassador, some products listed in the agreement signed with ALADI that are classified as "LI" (free importation) should be classified instead as "LP" (subject to prior authorization) "When the new directive is issued, it will therefore be necessary to amend the text," Ambassador Azambuja added, in his memorandum to Secretary Goldemberg.

Chile

OAS To Discuss Consolidation of Democracies

PY2805210391 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Some of the 50 topics included in the agenda of the OAS meeting in our country next week are very important for the countries that will be affected by decisions on them. One of those topics is strengthening the democratic systems. Heraldo Munoz, Chilean ambassador to the OAS, has told Radio Cooperativa that the foreign ministers will meet before the general assembly to establish guidelines for a subsequent proposal on the protection of our democratic systems. Munoz has said that the OAS is already actively involved in a decision to strengthen democracies in Nicaragua and El Salvador and that this week OAS observers went to Suriname to follow the electoral process. Munoz said that these matters will be discussed in Chile.

[Begin Munoz recording] There is a belief that we have recovered our democracies, but the democratic process does not end there. We must contribute to preserve, consolidate, and strengthen it. The foreign ministers will probably discuss the consolidation of democracy as one of the most important issues during their informal meeting before the assembly. The ministers have expressed their concern over an attempted coup by antidemocratic forces prior to the elections in Haiti and over the latest incidents in Suriname. This has prompted a proposal to coordinate OAS efforts. There will be a frank dialogue before the assembly to establish the bases for an action program to preserve and consolidate our democracies. The assembly in Santiago may then approve the program. [end recording]

Munoz said that he believes that the OAS can strongly support the consolidation and strengthening of democracy and that the issue will dominate the discussions during the foreign minister's informal meeting on 2 June. Munoz said that guidelines for respecting the sovereignty of states and for the principle of nonintervention will be considered during the meeting in Santiago.

Participation in Americas Initiative Announced

PY2505024691 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley has said that Chile will be the first country to have a concrete participation in U.S. President George Bush's Americas Initiative.

Foxley said that the country will be introduced to the initiative through a $150-million loan that the country will contract with the Inter-American Development Bank in June. Foxley said that Chile has began discussing with the U.S. Treasury the reduction of Chile's $470-million official debt with the United States. Foxley then refuted former Ministers Hernan Buchi and Jose Pinera's remarks yesterday that the country is showing disturbing economic signals.

[Begin Foxley recording] When actors overact, they end up alone, in front of an empty theater. People do not want to listen to exaggerations or overplayed figures. People do not want confrontation or artificial arguments. People want to reason in calm because they know that the country has returned to the good path. [end recording]

Minister Says No More Mining Privatizations

PY2505222491 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Mining Minister Juan Hamilton has said that there will be no more nationalizations or privatizations of Chilean mining companies. He added that the government will not change this decision.

Hamilton said that Codelco [Copper Corporation], Enami [National Mining Enterprise], and ENAP [National Petroleum Enterprise] are effective companies that yield high profits to the government, thus allowing the country to develop.

The minister said that the decision to stop privatizing mining companies is entirely supported by the mining sector workers and most Chileans. He also said that this does not prevent these public companies from associating with private companies to their mutual benefit.

[Begin Hamilton recording] This means that these companies continue to be entirely in the hands of the government. Codelco, Enami, and ENAP are public companies which, through the government, are owned by the 12 million who make up the Chilean people. Not even one of the 51 percent shares will be sold.

This does not prevent these companies from signing contracts with private companies and seeking mutual benefits through association, consortium, or any other type of partnership, as it has often occurred. [end recording]

Hamilton said that ENAP, for example, has signed prospecting and exploitation contracts with private companies. He also mentioned the case of Enami, which has associated with private companies for the exploitation of some deposits, thus benefiting small- and medium-sized private mining companies.

Minister Hamilton concluded by saying that our national development depends on the dynamic action of the private sector, which is fully supported by the government and the program for the modernizing public enterprises. He added that the two sectors should cooperate instead of competing.

Colombia

Kidnappers Kill U.S. Hostage During Rescue

PA2905035191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0103 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 28 May (EFE)—It has been reported officially that a U.S. resident of Colombia, who had been kidnapped two months ago, was killed by his captors when the police tried to rescue him today.

William Robert Greemlin, 72, was killed during the rescue attempt in rural Guataqui region, Tolima Department, in the southern part of the country.

Greemlin, a mechanic, aviation pilot, and owner of the "Vegetable Sanitation" crop dusting company, was kidnapped in April in Ibague, capital of Tolima Department, where he had lived for years.

Jairo Valderrama, regional director of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS—Secret police in Tolima), said that four of the kidnappers, apparently members of a front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), were captured in the operation.

The DAS director of Tolima said that a policeman was also wounded in the operation.

Inhabitants of the town of Frontino, Antioquia Department, in the northwestern part of the country, will stage a strike tomorrow, Wednesday, to protest the killing of an old lady by guerrillas of another front of the "FARC," according to the authorities.

Gabriela White de Velez, former Liberal Party deputy, 80, was kidnapped on 23 May in a farm near Frontino by a group of 20 men who claimed to belong to the "FARC," and who demanded from her family 150 million pesos in ransom for her release.

According to the authorities, since the early part of the year until 26 May some [word indistinct] persons have been kidnapped and [word indistinct] have been killed in frustrated attempts to obtain their release.

Some 59 others have been rescued, while 326 obtained their release after paying the ransom demanded.

A total of 335 persons are still being held hostage by kidnappers, although authorities admit that there could be more because many of the relatives of the victims do not inform the authorities.

Government Appoints Delegation to Caracas Talks

PA2705155491 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Presidential Adviser for Peace Jesus Antonio Bejarano reported that Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana and FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] leader Alfonso Cano will head the delegations to the meeting to be held on 1 June in Caracas, Venezuela between rebels and the Colombian Government.

Bejarano also told RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional] that a radio-telephone conversation will be held today with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board's [CNGSB] staff to establish the modus operandi for the rebel spokesmen's transportation to Caracas.

It was also explained that there is no information regarding the place in Venezuela where the meetings will be held.

The peace adviser said that they are waiting for the Venezuelan Government to issue safe-conducts for the rebel leaders who will travel to Caracas.

The executive branch's delegation to the meeting comprises the following people: Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana, Deputy Government Minister Andres Gonzalez Diaz, Peace Adviser Jesus Antonio Bejarano, Adviser Carlos Eduardo Jaramillo, and the presidential advisers for human rights.

The CNGSB said that its representatives will be: Alfonso Cano, Ivan Marquez, Guillermo Zuluaga, Andres Paris, Pablo Catatumbo, and Daniel Aldana for the FARC and Francisco Galan and Lucia Gonzalez for the ELN [Army of National Liberation].

The representatives for the dissident faction of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] will be named during the next few hours.

Rebel Group Names Delegates

PA2705041791 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1239 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Bogota—The Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGNSB] has released the names of the delegates who will represent this rebel group at the second peace meeting, which will be held in Caracas, Venezuela on 1 June.

Lucia Gonzalez, one of the three CNGSB spokesmen, who sought refuge in the Venezuelan capital and who was present during the first meeting, talked to this station from Caracas. Gonzalez said that each one of the organizations comprising the rebel movement has appointed the following delegates: the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] has appointed secretaries General Alfonso Cano and Ivan Marquez; Guillermo Zuluaga, member of the general staff and commander of the 22th Front of the FARC; Andres Paris, member of the general staff and chief of the permanent FARC delegation abroad; and (Pablo Catatumbo), commander of the 32d Front of the FARC.

The Camilista Union of the Army of National Liberation [UC-ELN] appointed Francisco Galan, a member of the central command. The dissident faction of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], which did not accept the peace agreements with the government and which is led by Francisco Caraballo, has yet to decide who will be present in Caracas.

The spokesman of the CNGSB said the three delegates, who sought asylum in Venezuela, will also be members of the commission. She added that talks are under way with the government to decide on the transportation of the negotiators to the Venezuelan capital.

Quintin Lame, Government Sign Final Agreement

PA2805042691 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Today the government and the Quintin Lame indigenous armed movement signed the final peace agreement by which that organization will surrender its weapons on 31 May. Nubia Amparo Ortiz reports from the guerrilla camp:

[Begin recording] [Ortiz] In the presence of the presidential and other peace advisers, members of the Quintin Lame General Command, and special guests, a peace agreement and commitment to surrender weapons was signed at the Luis Angel Monroy Camp between the guerrilla movement and the national government. Here is Quintin Lame Leader Ciro Tique:

[Tique] We believe that the Quintin Lame group can contribute to the region's development, particularly through the Constituent Assembly, where it will play a basic role, and specifically here in Cauca Department, a place long neglected that needs a leadership movement that will really promote community development. [end recording]

This armed organization began talks with the government on 10 March, which resulted in agreements concerning the approval of more than 16 development projects that will benefit the Indian communities where this guerrilla group operated. It was also agreed that a representative from the Quintin Lame group would participate in the National Constituent Assembly. In addition, a new political alternative was proposed through the creation of an indigenous movement.

Branch Not To Accept Agreements

PA2805162391 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Cali—A dissident branch of the Quintin Lame pro-Indian movement will remain up in arms and not accept the agreements signed in Pueblo Nuevo, Cauca Department. This was revealed by 3d Brigade Commander General Victor Arevalo Pinilla. He reported that secret state organizations have detected the mobilization of Quintin Lame dissident groups toward the country's southern area.

The high-ranking officer added that the authorities in charge of maintaining order will continue to maintain peace in all regions of Colombia and the full force of the law will be applied to those who insist on acting outside the bounds of the Constitution.

Report Shows GNP Increased 4.2 Percent in 1990

PA2605030991 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 21 May 91 p 18

[Article by Arturo Menendez Vall-Serra]

[Text] The Colombian GNP grew 4.2 percent in 1990, according to the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

The preliminary figures announced by the government organization pointed out that the only reduction, 6.7 percent, was in the construction sector.

As in previous years, the highest growth was registered in the exploitation of mines and quarries, with an increase of 8 percent; followed by agriculture and livestock, forestry, hunting and fishing with 6.7 percent; and the manufacturing industry with a growth of 6.9 percent.

The first estimates on the growth of the GNP in 1990, announced four months ago by the National Planning Department, indicated that growth was less than 3 percent, but this was later adjusted by the same organization to between 3 and 4 percent.

The DANE, responsible for measuring production to establish the growth level of the national economy, noted that the abovementioned growth in its first report on the GNP for 1990.

Other sectors registered the following: Electricity, gas, and water grew by 4.8 percent; commerce, restaurants, and hotels, 2 percent; transportation, storage, and communications, 4 percent; financial establishments, insurance, real estate, and services to companies, 4.1 percent; community, social, and personal services, 3.6 percent.

In the case of financial establishments, insurance, real estate, and services to companies, the growth is the result of a 5.1-percent increase in banks, insurance, and services to companies, and 3 percent in monthly rents.

In community, social, and personal services, the increase resulted from a 4.5-percent increase in government services and 2 percent in personal and domestic services.

Meanwhile, DANE disclosed there was a drop of 1.1 percent in the gross formation of fixed capital, which means a reduction in the investment of durable goods used for the production of goods and services.

According to DANE, based on 1975 prices, the gross formation of fixed capital passed from 111.479 billion pesos to 110.252 billion pesos, while in the inventories amounting to 7.197 billion pesos, there were no changes.

The final demand, which increased to 843.366 billion pesos in 1975 to 23.474.424 trillion pesos, grew by 4.4 percent as a result of the 18.1-percent increase in the exports and the 1.8-percent increase in the final national demand.

The supply, which grew by 4.4 percent, was the result of an increase in the GNP of 4.2 percent and 6.2 percent in imported merchandise.

Over the regular prices of 1990, the total value of production increased to 20.634.34 trillion pesos, as a result of an added value for 19.936.858 trillion pesos and import duties and taxes for 667.482 billion pesos.

The production of the agricultural, livestock, forestry, hunting and fishing sector had a value in regular pesos in 1990 of 3.453.677 trillion; of the manufacturing industry of 4.331.964 trillion; of the mines and quarries sector, increased to 1.563.091 trillion; of the construction industry to 1.168.935 trillion; of the commerce, restaurant, and hotels to 2.910.372 trillion.

Ecuador

Central Bank Reports Increased Oil Exports

PA2605212791 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] The Central Bank announced today that Ecuador exported 19.6 million barrels of crude between January and April 1991, eight percent more than the 18.2 million barrels sold during the same period in 1990. The bank said this recovery was possible because of the record sales in February and March, which dropped in April when the state-owned Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise, Petroecuador, did not make direct sales abroad.

According to the Central Bank's latest statistical report, petroleum by-product exports dropped to 2.7 million during the first three months of the year, from a little over 3 million barrels during the same period in 1990.

Petroecuador, which has a total inventory of over 1 million barrels, slightly decreased its extractions for two days a week ago to use some of the oil in storage. It also reduced the price of crude by 50 cents to attract buyers.

A group of Petroecuador officials are currently visiting the United States to negotiate with potential buyers. Also, Energy Ministry officials held a meeting a few hours ago in Quito with industrialists to negotiate shipments. The sale of crude and its by-products, which represent over half of our overall exports, finances half of the government's expenses. Government spokesmen think that the sector's current decline is a result of internal logistical problems and the international oil market's saturation.

The Central Bank said that between January and April, exports averaged 163,000 daily in comparison to 151,000 daily in 1990. Production in both periods (?dropped) from 300,000 barrels daily, according to official figures. In the first quarter of the year, crude and by-product exports produced $345 million, 54 percent of total sales, while between January and March 1990, they yielded $276 million, or 48 percent of the total from exports.

Indians Seize National Congress Meeting Room

PA2905044391 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2329 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Members of the Confederation of Indian Nationalities and Amazonian People have paralyzed parliamentary activities because they have seized the sessions room of the national congress to demand a solution to the grave problems that this Ecuadoran sector is facing.

[Begin recording of Luis Macas, president of the Confederation of Indian Nationalities] We have come to the Chamber of Representatives to make known some

aspects of life in the Indian communities. We came here to present our proposal for a reform to the Constitution.

We first did this two years ago, and we still do not have an answer. We received no answer from the previous congress and we have received no answer from the current congress.

We have come here to tell the deputies to work.

Another point, the main reason for our presence here, is to request amnesty for more than 1,000 fellow Indians who are facing legal proceedings.

The charges against them have nothing to do with criminal cases. This is a matter of political persecution against Indian leaders. This is what we have come to tell the president of the national congress, to ask him to grant, once and for all, amnesty so that more than 1,000 companeros may move freely throughout Ecuador.

It is being said that we live in a state of full democracy and liberty. Let them allow us to do at least this. The legal proceedings against our companeros and leaders began at a national level after the Indian uprising.

Another point is that the International Labor Organization [ILO], in line with agreement 169, has guidelines that have to do with recognizing the existence of the Indian population in various countries. We have presented this document to the current congress so that it may endorse this ILO agreement. This has not been done yet.

These are the three points we have come to present to the president of congress and to the party leaders who will be meeting soon. We will then know what their position will be. [end recording]

Luis Macas said that democracy has been reinstated in the country, but the state still fails to pay attention to the Indians' problems and needs.

Paraguay

President Meets With New Mayor of Asuncion

PY2905033091 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 May 91 p 12

[Text] Carlos Filizzola, the newly elected mayor of Asuncion, met with President General Andres Rodriguez this morning, and they discussed several matters related to Asuncion City Hall. The meeting has been seen as an official acknowledgement of Filizzola's victory in the municipal elections despite the fact that the Central Electoral Board has not yet released the official vote count. The president's private secretary, Eladio Loizaga, and Ricardo Canesse and Lilian Soto, municipal council members-elect from the "Asuncion for All" movement also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Filizzola reported that he proposed creation of two commissions—one made up of representatives of the current City Hall administration and another one made up of representatives of the "Asuncion for All" movement—in order "to become acquainted with City Hall administration and particularly, to avoid contracting new projects and to establish a transition period until we officially assume the post."

Filizzola said Rodriguez told him that he will talk with current Mayor Colonel Alder about helping Filizzola carry out his proposal.

He said: "We are planning to discuss the new Municipal Law with Congress and to work with other executive branches as necessary and institutions linked with City Hall."

Filizzola reiterated his promise to "clean up the municipal administration. We want the rules of the game to be very clean." He added: "An investigation will be conducted in all City Hall departments and appropriate legal measures will be taken against employees involved in certain crimes." He made it clear that "no employee will be dismissed for political reasons." He also said that if irregularities are proven after an audit is performed at an institution, the culprits will be sanctioned. "We will not tolerate corruption," he added.

Zuccolillo on New Position as Presidential Aide

PY2505210291 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 25 May 91 p 4

[Text] Former Industry and Commerce Minister Antonio Zuccolillo who has been appointed presidential economic advisor said 24 May: "I will be in charge of issues which are not being handled by a ministry or for which there is no specific institution." He made this comment at the end of the cabinet meeting headed by Preesident Andres Rodriguez at government house yesterday morning.

Zuccolillo played down the report that his replacement as industry and commerce minister may cause him to lose his status and power in the government. He emphasized that several projects need follow-up actions and that this is why he was named economic advisor to the president.

He added: "I will also be in charge of complementing the actions of the ministries, and other institutions as well as projects and programs from the presidency which has the responsibility of running the country's administration."

As an example of his new functions Zuccolillo said: "One of the activities which will have to be continued is privatization. So far the privatization issue involves a project to lead the state companies which are in debt or operating at a deficit toward better management as a new enterprise or as a company with participation of private capital such as the case of Apal [Paraguayan Alcohol Administration] of which one part was transferred to another state company and the other part to a private company."

Zuccolillo said: "There are many issues which the ministries of the economic area did not have enough time to manage in the last two years. For example, serious distortions have occurred with our internatitonal trade. Let me mention Japan. Last year we purchased goods from Japan worth $164 million but we sold goods worth only $2 million to that country. This is a serious irregularity which should be corrected. We should study the reason why we are not selling more goods to Japan which buys large amounts of meat, cotton, and soybeans but not from Paraguay. Japan is probably the world's largest buyer of soybeans but it does not buy from Paraguay."

Zuccolillo will also negotiate new loans to speed up the country's development. He said that with the new resources and investments "Paraguay should grow from 5 to 10 percent a year because it has the potential to do so. There is no reason to accept a low growth percentage." He also said that a great deal remains to be done on regional integration and on other aspects of the national economic activity.

New Industry Minister on Development Goals

PY2505211291 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 25 May 91 p 5

[Text] New Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone said 24 May that the government is not satisfied with the economic growth obtained so far in the plan drawn up for this year. He added that the government expects more growth through new investments. Scavone made these comments after he was presented as the new minister during a cabinet meeting at government house yesterday.

Scavone will be installed on 27 May. He said that he has not yet appointed the new under secretaries and that their names will be known next week.

Asked about his new position, Scavone said: "We are concerned about investments because we are not satisfied with the current growth rate."

He added: "The 3-percent growth is not the best for our country. We want greater and sustained growth. We need investments and new loans to achieve that."

Scavone promised that the Industry and Commerce Ministry "will continue to support through international economic negotiations the harmonization of the economic and tarriff policies within the Mercosur [Common Market of the South) by supporting the actions of the Foreign Ministry and other organizations."

Scavone added: "The Industry and Commerce Ministry will continue its thankless task of keeping prices stable throuch checks and balances and without using monopolistic or price-control policies. We will continue this difficult task."

He also said: "Industrial activity will continue to get the sustained support which is urgently necessary for regional integration. This will be a very important part of our action."

He added: "We know that if we export unmanufactured products the benefits we will get from the integration will be minimal. Therefore, we have the obligation to produce manufactured products to get the benefits of integration and to create the jobs the country needs."

He was asked about his ideas on overcoming the problems at the institutional level, especially on defining a macroeconomic policy. Scavone said: "A great deal can be done but what happens is that the important everyday activities do not give us time to see the important issues. We will make more effort and provide the necessary personnel to increase coordination. It should also be kept in mind that sometimes it is not a question of who is in charge but what the development goal is; that is, making economic policies compatible. In this case the Industry and Commerce Ministry advocates development theory just as the Agriculture Ministry does."

Peru

Committee, Bank Ask IMF for Debt Pardon

PY2705030691 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 May 91 p 6

[Excerpt] Senator Elmer Evangelista, president of the Joint Budget Committee, revealed yesterday that his committee and the Central Reserve Bank have asked IMF representatives in Peru to pardon our foreign debt.

Evangelista added that the request was submitted to Martin Hardy and John Clark Jr., IMF representatives in Peru, who said that they "will do as much as possible to have the Peruvian proposal understood."

The proposal was made by Evangelista (Change 90), Eduardo Calmell del Solar (AP) [Popular Action], and Bernardo Dolmos (IU) [United Left] who are the leaders of the Joint Budget Committee. They received the support of Miguel Vega Alvear [Democratic Front], and Mercedes Cabanillas (APRA) [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance].

The congressmen based their proposal on the partial or total debt pardon obtained by Poland and Egypt, and on the great effort being made by Peru to reorganize its economy.

"The people can no longer bear the burden. It is also no longer possible to demand greater effort from them, and this was understood by the IMF representatives," said Evangelista during a news conference in his office.

He said that Hardy and Clark expressed their dismay over the gigantic size of some state companies whose deficits are being made up by the national budget.

Evangelista also said that the IMF officials expressed concern over the low tax collection "which is among the poorest in the underdeveloped world."

He recalled that tax revenues are only 7 percent of the GDP despite the fact that the goal is to increase them to at least 12 percent after they were found to be only 4 percent under the previous administration. [passage omitted]

Government Urged To Arrange Red Cross Help

PY2805115091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpt] The Senate decided this evening to ask the executive branch to request the intervention of the International Red Cross in La Rioja Province, Moyobamba Department, to help obtain the release of the eight policemen who were kidnapped by the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement]. [passage omitted]

Students Arrested While Preparing Car Bomb

PY2805222091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpt] At dawn today, the National Police arrested two university students as they were trying to convert a car into a car bomb at a gas station in Brena District. Miguel Vega Paquillo, 22, a student at San Marcos University, and Ricardo Luque Condori, 20, a student at Federico Villarreal University, were arrested after a long police chase.

The students were found inside a car loaded with explosives; the police were searching for the car because it was stolen. The car, bearing license plate No. FI6240, was being converted to a car bomb in the gas station at the intersection of Arica Avenue and Napo Street in Brena District. The terrorist students were taken to the 10th Police Precinct in Brena where the duty prosecutor verified that they were university students. [passage omitted]

Striking Teachers Victims of 'Repression'

PY2805125091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2016 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Lima, 27 May (EFE)—Jose Ramos, secretary general of the Peruvian Teachers Union, reported today that four striking teachers were thrown from a helicopter in the jungle department of San Martin. One of the teachers, Moises Tenorio Banda, survived. He was found in a sack at the top of a tree which helped check his fall.

Soledad Lozano, under secretary of the SUTEP (Trade Union of Education Workers of Peru), which has been on a nationwide indefinite strike since 8 May, told the media how Banda was found.

There are 260,000 teachers and 3,500 directors of state schools, which are now totally abandoned, on strike. They are demanding better salaries.

According to Lozano, Tenorio and the other three teachers, who have officially been listed as disappeared, were detained by the Army.

Lozano told the Lima newspaper LA REPUBLICA that there is a very clear intention to implement a policy of repression, including the disappearance and murder of teachers. Top union leaders have been threatened to discontinue the strike.

On 24 May the Peruvian Human Rights Commission denounced the detention of teacher Marcela Valdez de la Cruz by the Technical Police of Ayacucho. Her whereabouts are unknown.

Speaking to LA REPUBLICA, Lozano also denounced the disappearance of teacher Erasmo Huaman Sante, a regional deputy, as he traveled from the port of Pisco to Lima to participate in the strike.

Municipal Elections Scheduled for 18 August

PY2805204991 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] It is estimated that 810,000 citizens from 21 provinces in 10 departments will participate in the upcoming complementary municipal elections. The organization of these elections will cost 52 billion intis.

On 18 August, 21 [number as heard] provinces in 10 departments will elect their provincial mayors in the complementary municipal elections. They are distributed in the following departments: eight in Ayacucho, one in Apurimac, two in Lima, one in San Martin, one in Moquehua, two in Huancavelica, one in Puno, two in Ancash, one in La Libertad, and one in Ucayali Department.

It was also reported that 1,784 district mayors will be elected in 493 electoral districts.

Here is an interview with National Election Board President Carlos Castaneda La Fontaine.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How much will these elections cost?

[Castaneda] Approximately 52 billion intis.

[Reporter] This means that the Economy Ministry must transfer this money to you. When will it do so?

[Castaneda] The Economy Ministry disburses the required amounts of money every month. Therefore, it has already disbursed the money necessary for May. [end recording]

Here is a list of the provinces where the complementary municipal elections will be held next 18 August:

Ayacucho Department: Huamanga, Huanta, Cangallo, Parinacochas, Victor Fajardo, Sucre, Paucar de Zarazara, and Huancazancos.
Apurimac Department: Grau.
Lima Department: Oyomi and Cajatambo.

San Martin Department: Tocache.
Moquehua Department: Mariscal Nieto.
Huancavelica Department: Huaitara and Churcampa
Puno Department: San Antonio de Pupina
Ancash Department: Ocros and Aija
Ucayali Department: Padre Abad
La Liberta Department: Julcan.

Bolivian Minister Views Accords on Trade Zone

PY2805165091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde Ballivian has asked the Peruvian people to support the antidrug agreement that was signed by Peru and the United States, as well as all other types of agreements to fight drug trafficking. Iturralde made these statements after meeting with Premier and Foreign Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara.

Agreements were signed at the Hall of Treaties in the Torretagle Building [Foreign Ministry]. Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde said that the most important agreement was the one creating a free trade zone in Ilo, because it will be very beneficial for his country.

The foreign ministers signed notes on civil defense cooperation, environmental protection, agriculture, and the prevention and repression of drug trafficking. Premier Torres y Torres Lara said Bolivia has committed itself to helping Peruvians reach Argentina and the Atlantic Ocean via river.

The foreign ministers later held a news conference in the new press room. Iturralde said there was a 30-day deadline for finishing technical studies on establishing a free trade zone in Ilo. Iturralde spoke about the antidrug agreement between Bolivia and the United States, recommending that all Peruvians support this type of effort. Iturralde said the United States has helped his country with $132 million in economic aid but that more was undoubtedly needed.

Premier and Foreign Minister Torres y Torres Lara said he will go to Congress on 28 May to answer questions on the antidrug agreement with the United States The foreign minister also mentioned that the Andean Pact could eventually merge with the Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market].

Uruguay

Iranian Minister Meets Government Officials

PY2405215991 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, minister of commerce of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is in Montevideo heading an official delegation that includes many businessmen.

The visitor has already met with Vice President Gonzalo Aguire, Economy and Finance Minister Enrique Braga, Industry and Energy Minister Augusto Montesdeoca, and other government officials. He will now meet local businessmen at the local Chamber of Commerce.

Seeks To Promote Ties

LD2505094291 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji discussed promotion of Iran-Uruguay political and commercial ties with ranking Uruguayan officials in Montevideo before winding up a one-day visit on Friday.

Vahaji met with President Luis Alberto Lacalle, vice-president Gonzalo Aguirre Ramirez, Minister of Industry and Energy Don Agusto Montes de Oca, as well as ministers of foreign affairs and economy and finance.

In his meeting with President Lacalle, Vahaji conveyed a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani calling for strengthening of friendly political ties between the two countries.

On bilateral trade relations, he said Iran is importing meat and rice from Uruguay and intends to increase export of its non-oil and industrial goods to Uruguay.

Issues of mutual interest and practical ways of upgrading political ties covered Vahaji's talks with [words indistinct].

Exchange of data in oil and petrochemical industries, food industry, agriculture and live-stock breeding and relevant technologies were dicussed in his meetings with Minister of Industry and Energy Don Agusto Montes de Oca.

Vahaji and the Uruguayan foreign minister called for efforts to consolidate friendly political ties between the two countries.

He invited the Uruguayan minister of economy and finance to visit Iran during the Tehran International Trade Fair in September which was accepted.

The Iranian delegation who earlier visited Brazil also discussed boosting the volume of export of Uruguayan meat, rice, wool and dairy products to Iran and import of Iranian pistachio nuts, handwoven carpets, handicraft, and industrial products.

Senate Ratifies Treaty Creating Mercosur

PY2305035891 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 000 GMT 23 May 91

[Excerpt] The Senate has ratified by a mayority vote the Asuncion Treaty creating the Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market]. With the favorable vote of the 30 senators present at the session, Uruguay has become the first country, through one of its houses in Congress, to approve the agreement.

Senator Sergio Abreu told Carve that this shows Uruguay's responsible attitude regarding international issues, as well as its interests in the integration project. [passage omitted]

Coalition Said on 'Brink of Political Collapse'

PY2405220791 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] We are on the brink of political collapse, a pro-government Senator said when describing the situation over the government coalition regarding the public enterprise law. Arriving from a tour of Paraguay, Canada, and the United States, President Luis Alberto Lacalle found out that disagreements between sectors of the government coalition might cause the failure of the state reform bill, which is the main bill that the government wants approved during its term.

From the Carrasco International Airport, Lacalle went to the Suarez residence, where senators of the Hereraist sector and from the Renewal and Victory [RyV] faction [of the Blanco Party] informed him of the situation. They told him that the possibility that major features of the government initiative may fail following the report by the Batlleist Forum [FB] [of the Colorado Party] that it is against the privatization of the telephone service.

Lacalle categorically stated that if the FB or if the National Rocha Movement [MNR] [of the Blanco Party] brought about the failure of the initiative, the Government of National Coincidence [name given to coalition formed between the Blanco and the Colorado Parties] would end and the members of those sectors who are holding posts within the government, would be replaced.

The president then played a trump card. He phoned MNR leader Carlos Julio Pereyra and FB leader Julio Maria Sanguinetti. After asking them to reconsider their position on several articles of the bill, the president ordered pro-government senators to ask the Senate for a new postponement of the debate. Senator Ignacio de Posadas, who at the last Senate session was against a postponement, on this occasion agreed to the postponement.

At the conclusion of the Senate session the countdown started. In fact, the Herrerist sector, the FB, and the MNR now have 72 hours to settle their differences so that the state enterprise bill can be approved, not as it was submitted by the government, but at least following the basics of what the executive branch had in mind when it drafted the bill. This idea was proclaimed during the electoral campaign. If this initiative fails, not only the public enterprise bill, but also the government coalition, will be jeopardized, and along with it the posts that MNR and FB members are holding in the government.

Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre and Senator Walter Santoro last night officially notified the FB and the MNR of the government's firm stance in the face of the congressional blockade, which has led the Government of National Coincidence to a situation which pro-government officials did not hesitate to describe as (?critical).

Dr. Aguirre, in his capacity as RyV leader, and Dr. Santoro, in his capacity as chairman of the executive committee of the Herreraist sector, last night met on behalf of the government with MNR leader Carlos Julio Pereyra and with FB Senate leader Americo Ricaldoni.

The pro-government leaders told their interlocutors that the president is firmly determined to have the public enterprise law approved, for which reason he is willing to agree to slight reforms, but without modifying the spirit of the initiative.

If this cannot be attained, Aguirre and Santoro said that the government will consider that the Government of National Coincidence has failed and that, consequently, there is no reason for it to continue.

High-ranking government sources said that this was an elegant way of notifying the MNR and the FB that the president will thoroughly restructure the government, replacing ministers and officials in trusted positions who are members of the sectors that do not vote for the above bill.

At the end of the Senate session, a pro-government senator said: Today we are on the brink of political collapse. He added that the last straw that broke the camel's back was the new and unexpected position of the FB, which decided to oppose the termination of the phone service monopoly by refusing to grant licenses to private parties for that sector of Antel [National Telecommunications Administration].

He said that the MNR had decided to agree to the involvement of private capital in the sector only if the state is the majority stockholder.

If the MNR and the FB voted against the reform of Antel it would make it impossible to approve the bill. The source said that failure to approve this part of the bill would frustrate the most important part of the initiative and would consequently distort it.

Antel is the most attractive enterprise for foreign capital, and that is the reason why President Luis Alberto Lacalle has attached great importance to the termination of this monopoly and to the partial privatization of this enterprise.

Let us listen to the president on the subject:

[Begin recording] [Lacalle] I believe that the acting president and I have outlined the problem in another way. Emphasis was not placed on [words indistinct].

Before the television viewers I would like to recall that during the electoral campaign everyone, practically everyone.... [changes thought] because if we dug into the electoral proposals, I would say that every party mentioned the reform of the state. The country knows that this is true. The country does need the reform.

Following the electoral victory of the broad majority who voted for us, the National Party.... [changes thought] They voted for the only party whose program included the state reform proposal. Within that party, the majority voted for the sectors that placed more emphasis on the subject, that is, the RyV and the Herrerraist sector, who are here represented by Dr. Aguirre and myself. Consequently, this is the explicit will of the people. They want a thorough reform of the organization of the country.

Following the elections we tried to arrange a coalition. You, the media in particular, witnessed this. A central issue for the coalition has been the state reform issue.

Last Holy Friday, during Easter Week, that is, 14 months ago, the leaders of the sectors of the Government of National Coincidence received copies of the public enterprise project. That was 14 months ago.

After this consultation, we submitted the bill to Congress in September, after a significant period of the government term—six months—had already passed.

During a session of the Council of Ministers, the ministers, who were eyewitnesses, on behalf of their particular political sectors, endorsed the government bill, although on that occasion those political representatives performed a particular [words indistinct]. All the Colorado and Blanco ministers endorsed the project.

At the congressional committee, where our fellow party members and where all the lawmakers have intensively worked, the project was adjusted, thus showing that the executive branch did not intend to have its project approved without any modifications.

The text of the bill was ready at the end of the year through the intelligent, generous, and painstaking work of many lawmakers.

Now that the time for voting on it has arrived, we believe that we have arrived at a moment of special importance for the Herreraist sector.

[Unidentified reporter] (?What is your government's opinion [words indistinct])?

[Lacalle] This is a central subject for the government because along with two or three other factors, the reform of the state is one of the reasons why this government won votes, and one of the reasons that led this government to create the Government of National Coincidence.

The voting on the state reform is central for this government. I am sure that the vote will have a progressive and not a conservative outcome, supporting the transformation that the country needs because of the Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market]. We hope that this transformation will begin as of today's session. [end recording]

Guyana

Hoyte, Jagan Disagree on Economic Conditions

FL2805144391 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte says his government's economic recovery program is working, but needs more time. Mr. Hoyte made his comments in a nationwide broadcast marking Guyana's 25th year of independence. Meanwhile, opposition leader Cheddi Jagan said conditions in Guyana have deteriorated over the last 25 years.

Opposition Parties Withdraw Parliamentarians

FL2705181591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1710 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 26, CANA—Guyana's main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) says it will not be filling seats in the National Assembly left vacant after PPP members resigned en masse last month to protest a second extension of the life of Parliament.

PPP leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan was reported in the state media as saying the party would stick to its position of protesting the government's second extension of Parliament. The move was related to current preparations for general elections due later this year

Parliamentary speaker Sase Narain had called on Jagan to fill the vacancies created by the resignations of the PPP leader and four of his top party stalwarts. Narain said if the seats were not filled, they would stay vacant.

Another PPP member was expelled from Parliament for hurling a glass of drinking water in the direction of the speaker during a stormy sitting of the Legislature on January 14. The incident occurred after the speaker refused to allow Jagan to address the Assembly. The PPP leader has been barred from speaking in the Assembly since April 1988 for directing abusive language at the speaker and removing the speaker's mace from its position.

The other two opposition parties—the Working People's Alliance (WPA) and the United Force—have also withdrawn their representatives from Parliament.

No Water, Power in Capital; Residents Desperate

FL2405233391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2214 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 24, CANA—The Georgetown water authorities are faced with a huge repair bill after residents burst mains with pick axes when a power outage on Thursday dried up water supplies. Nearly every street in the capital has broken mains and pipelines, sparking fears because of news of cholera in neighbouring South American countries.

It was pandemonium in front of the Guyana Sewerage and Water Commission headquarters in the capital

Thursday as residents jostled each other to secure supplies of water through a huge, 600-gallon emergency tank set up outside the compound. In other parts of the capital, mobile water tankers were selling water by the buckets at Guy 20 dollars each.

Electricity woes continued Friday with nearly the entire capital being without power.

RPA Supports Strike at St. Vincent-Owned Mill

FL2405132591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1132 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 24, CANA—The Rice Producers Association [RPA] is backing a strike that started on Monday at a St. Vincent-owned rice mill in Guyana. Work at the mill, owned by the East Caribbean Group of Companies (ECGC), halted amidst reports that 32 workers were dismissed.

The RPA condemned what it called the "high-handed action of the mill management." "The management of the Caricom Rice Mill must know that such shabby treatment to workers will only earn it the displeasure of the people," the RPA said. "The farmers who sell their paddy to the mill may react in support of the workers," it added. It called for reinstatement of the 32 workers.

Komal Chand, president of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union (GAWU), claimed that another 97 workers have been shortlisted for summary dismissal by the rice milling company. He said that the trouble all started last Friday when 25 workers were sent home without any reasons and a further 7 the next day under similar circumstances.

Suriname

Netherlands Expresses Satisfaction With Elections

PY2805195991 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Dutch Government said it is very pleased with reports for the fair and regular (?elapse) of the elections held in Suriname on Saturday, 26, last.

The Dutch Government declared that it supports the effort of Suriname to reach total recovery of democracy, constitutional state, peace, purity, and economic development.

In the declaration, Holland repeats its willingness to negotiate with Suriname about a tighter cooperation relation if Suriname requests it.

The next important touch stone for the quality of the democratic process are, according to the Netherlands, the call of the presidential elections and the composition of the new government.

More on Results

FL2805134091 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Suriname's New Front appears to be just four seats short of a two-thirds majority after Saturday's National Assembly elections. The votes are still being counted at last report.

That Assembly will choose the country's president, who must gain the two-thirds majority. If that fails, the Surinamese Constitution does allow for a joint national local Assembly session to choose a president by a simple majority vote.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek has warned Suriname's military that if it tries to take power again, as they did last Christmas, the Hague will consider a request by civilian authorities for assistance. The Dutch Foreign Ministry is said to be planning to hold talks with the new government after a president and a council of ministers are installed.

President, Foreign Minister on Dutch Media

PY2505003291 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Yesterday President Johan Kraag strongly condemned the way in which the Dutch media is deliberately manipulating [words indistinct].

[Words indistinct] yesterday at the [words indistinct] of the Presidential Palace during which he referred to [words indistinct] journalists of the Dutch television.

According to the journalist, Kraag at that occasion said that if Suriname cannot solve the problem (?of its) transport by its territory on its own, he would welcome assistance from the United States of America.

The head of state has, just like Foreign Minister Robby Ramlakhan, who assisted him, yesterday forcefully emphasized that he and the Government of Suriname do not support the idea of military intervention from whatever country in Suriname.

Following [words indistinct], Ramlakhan stated that the Dutch media wants to interfere in the democratization process of Suriname. [passage indistinct] According to Ramlakhan, only Surinamese have the right to determine how democracy should develop, and set the elections of tomorrow as an example.

Regarding the fight against drugs, Ramlakhan said he doesn't understand why people expect so much from such a small country as Suriname [words indistinct] problems.

When the national possibilities are exhausted, foreign assistance for drug fight will surely be requested, said Minister Ramlakhan yesterday at the presidential palace.

The minister said finally that there are, however, (?enough) possibilities to tackle the drug problem on our own.